

THE TIMES

Relief in Ford camp after narrow victory in primary

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Gulf entered the North Sea oil search in an equal partnership with Continental Oil (Conoco) and the National Coal Board, and made five significant oil discoveries, all in the area to the north-east of Shetland. BNOC gained a one-third interest in the group on January 1, when the NCB's North Sea interests were transferred to it. Participation will reduce Gulf's one-third share to 24.5 per cent.

Conoco is thought to be in advanced participation negotiations with the Government and once these are completed, probably in the near future, BNOC will have achieved its objective of a 51 per cent stake in these fields.

Because of the former holdings of the NCB, Conoco and Gulf will lose a proportionately smaller percentage of their title to North Sea production, a factor that which made them prime candidates for early negotiations on participation.

A number of other participation agreements are expected to follow. Some of the smaller companies with holdings in the North Sea, including Telford, have been negotiating for many months and are close to agreement.

British Petroleum has also agreed in principle to state participation in its Forth oil field, but negotiations of a detailed pact with BNOC has run into difficulties arising from deeply held objections to the scheme in the upper echelons of the company.

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Exxon, which is in partnership with Shell in four large fields, has publicly stated that as long as participation is voluntary, it is not volunteered. Distribution of new exploration areas is expected later in the year and the Government is making it clear to reluctant companies that cooperation will be on a reciprocal basis.

Fields covered by the Gulf agreement are the Dunlin and Thistle, at present under development; the Hutton, where commercial prospects are again under evaluation; and the Murchison and the United Kingdom extension of the Statford fields.

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Gulf agrees to North Sea share for state

By Roger Vielvoye

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Miles first British grandmaster

By Harry Golombek

Chess Correspondent

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In order to gain the title it is necessary to attain a grandmaster result in a minimum number of 24 games in tournaments within three years.

The Dubna tournament was a strong one, category 10, with 16 players, all of whom were grandmasters or international masters. In a tournament of category 10, nine points out of 15 are required to obtain the grandmaster norm, and Tony Miles achieved that. He came equal third with three Russians, Gipslis, Suetin and Saron. First was Tcheschovsky and second Zaitsev, both Russians.

Miles first obtained a grandmaster norm at the London international tournament last October. In that he scored 7½ out of 10, winning first prize and beating three international grandmasters. Since there was a smaller number of players, a smaller total sufficed.

Thus he has obtained the requisite total in 25 games and since the award is not automatic will have to wait to get it confirmed at the World Chess Federation congress in Haifa in October-November.

What is not so clear is whether he has won the £5,000 offered by Mr Jim Slater for the first British player to gain the title of international grandmaster, since that offer stipulates that the winner must also have an ELO rating of 2,500 and a British Chess Federation rating of 240.

These two rating systems are based on different methods of calculation and the British rating is tougher than the ELO rating. With his Dubna result it is probable that he has attained the ELO rating, but the British grading is uncertain. It may be that he will have to wait for the award till he accomplishes both ratings.

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HOME NEWS

White Paper figure of 10,000 jobs fixed in defence cuts highly misleading, MPs say

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

The Ministry of Defence has been rebuked in a parliamentary report for publishing a highly misleading figure of 10,000 jobs in the Defence Review White Paper last year. It was, the report says, of a "substantial error of judgment".

The White Paper had estimated that the Government's intention to cut £4,700m from defence spending over the next five years would mean the loss of 10,000 jobs in defence industries. The House of Commons Committee on Defence, however, discovered after further investigation that the total loss of jobs would be nearly 140,000.

The committee derived the figure of 10,000 by comparing numbers now employed in the defence industry with the number in 1974. The figure was thought to be a "substantial error" in jobs that would be lost as a result of equipment programmes abandoned in the past.

On this basis, the loss of jobs would be 10,000 in 1974-75, 10,000 in 1975-76, 10,000 in 1976-77, 10,000 in 1977-78, and 10,000 in 1978-79. The committee, however, considered that the Ministry of Defence had minimized the impact of the review on employment.

employment in a way which could be thought misleading.

"This we regard as a regrettable error of judgment, since it could create the false impression that defence cuts do not seriously affect the level of job opportunities in the defence industries."

The Defence and External Affairs Sub-committee, which has compiled the report on the effects of the Defence Review, also criticizes the decision to cut manpower in the services by 36,000, including an estimated 11,000 compulsory redundancies.

"We deplore the premature termination of the engagements of fully trained and useful men who wish to remain or undertake a further engagement, while new recruits are engaged and have to be trained from scratch at considerable cost."

The services have had to endure a succession of defence reviews and spending cuts which must damage confidence and morale, the report adds.

It considers it "highly unsatisfactory" that the Ministry of Defence has not given a date by which all those to be made redundant will be notified. Bigger employers should be encouraged to find jobs for ex-servicemen, and help should be given where possible by providing council houses and local authority mortgages.

The committee is also highly sceptical about parts of the Defence Review, such as the Combat Aircraft (MRC) programme. It notes "with regret but not surprise" that optimistic predictions about costs and delivery dates two years ago have again been revised. The cost of the strike reconnaissance model was said to be £3.9m each in September, 1974.

Most of the doubts are reserved for the controversial air defence variant (ADV), which is

due to replace the RAF's Phantom in the 1980s. Doubts were raised in a similar report two years ago and the committee is still not convinced that it is the right choice for Britain.

"Our impression is that the overall performance of the ADV will be inferior to that of the American F14 and F15, both of which will have been in United States service for several years before the ADV is expected to be available."

The committee says it is of prime importance that RAF aircraft should match the performance of Warsaw Pact equipment in the 1980s and 1990s, and reviews its plan for a "most stringent review" of Britain's air defence requirement before the country is committed to heavy spending on a fighter.

The committee's searching examination also calls for an urgent review of the Royal Navy's anti-submarine cruiser programme. It was told by the Ministry that the delivery of the first cruiser, HMS Invincible, had already been substantially delayed because of labour shortages at the Vickers shipyard at Barrow, and further costly delays were likely unless the labour position improved.

There is also criticism of the Government's policy on naval dockyards, which has brought a progressive rundown of jobs at all four main dockyards in Britain, with 23 per cent of the workers leaving in the past 20 years. However, the policy of keeping four medium-sized yards is, in the committee's view, inefficient. The Ministry should start planning now for the eventual closure of one yard, it says.

Second Report from the Expenditure Committee on Defence, 1975-76 (House of Commons Paper 155, Stationery Office, £5.05).



Lord Glenkilg (left) and Mr Harold Lever, MP, during the second annual bridge tournament between the Lords, the trophy holders, and the Commons, who won yesterday.

Family violence under scrutiny

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government has reconvened the select committee on battered wives and babies under a different title and with changed terms of reference. Instead of investigating violence in marriage, the new committee will study violence in the family.

The new terms of reference omit any mention of non-accidental injury to children which the previous committee had set out in its terms. But they are wide enough to take in battered babies

The committee is expected initially to continue the investigations into the difficulties of battered wives, on which its predecessor produced an interim report last September. That report recommended the reconvening of the committee as a matter of urgency.

The Government has set up several research projects in response to the report, and supports the Domestic Violence Bill sponsored by Miss J. Richardson, Labour MP for Barking, which would implement some of the recommendations. The new committee's terms of reference are: "to consider the extent, nature and causes of

the problems of families where there is violence; and to make recommendations". Twelve members of the committee have been named, but one more has yet to be appointed. The 12 are: Mr Atkins (Preston North, Lab); Mr Brotherton (Louth, C); Mrs Butler (Barnes, Lab); Mr G. L. and Co. (Preston North, Lab); Mr Elton (Newcastle upon Tyne, Lab); Mr G. L. and Co. (Preston North, Lab); Mr G. L. and Co. (Preston North, Lab); Mr G. L. and Co. (Preston North, Lab); Mr G. L. and Co. (Preston North, Lab); Mr G. L. and Co. (Preston North, Lab); Mr G. L. and Co. (Preston North, Lab).

Surprise move in the Amphill barony case

By Marcel Berlins

The Amphill barony hearing may come to a sudden end today after a surprise move on behalf of Mr John Russell, one of the claimants.

Mr Harry Law, appearing for Mr Russell before the House of Lords Committee of Privileges, disclosed the results of blood tests taken from the late third Lord Amphill, the succession to whose title is in issue, and challenged Mr Geoffrey Russell, the other claimant, to match them with samples of his own blood and that of his late mother, Christabel Lady Amphill.

Mr Law said: "In the event of its being established that Geoffrey cannot be eliminated as the son of the third baron, John will take no further part in the proceedings." His point was that Mr Geoffrey Russell could not be the third Lord Amphill's son, and that Christabel, his mother, was aware of the fact when bringing proceedings in 1926 to declare the title vacant. That would amount to fraud on her part and would render the declaration of legitimacy invalid.

Mr Law was responding to indications from members of the committee of nine that they regarded the declaration of legitimacy as binding on them under an Act of 1858 unless fraud or collusion could be shown.

Mr Law referred to the "chicken-and-egg" situation that had arisen. Their Lordships would not order the result of blood tests taken by both sides to be made available because they regarded themselves as bound by the declaration of legitimacy, which could be negated only by fraud. But he could not bring evidence of fraud unless the results of the blood tests were known. He again asked the committee to order that they must be made available.

Earlier, Lord Bledisloe, QC, leading counsel for Mr John Russell, disclosed that Mr Geoffrey Russell had been "bought out" for £30,000 to give up his interest in an Amphill family trust.

The Russell family had never recognized Mr Geoffrey Russell, Lord Bledisloe said, and they wanted to get any interest he had in the Amphill properties out of him. He added: "So they went in for a scheme whereby he was discredited, and they bought him out." The Amphill affairs were then relieved of Mr Geoffrey Russell's having any interest in them.

That amounted to fraud because it was done for an ulterior purpose, with an ulterior motive in mind.

Even if there is no sudden end to the hearing because of the blood test results, it is expected to finish today. It is unlikely, however, that the committee will make their decision known for some time.

Board accused of mistaken policy on Amin refugees

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr Mark Bonham Carter, chairman of the Community Relations Commission, yesterday blamed the Uganda Resettlement Board, of which he was a member, for a mistaken policy towards refugees evicted by President Amin.

Those best able to help such newcomers were their own people, he said. "The policy of dispersal completely failed to make use of this."

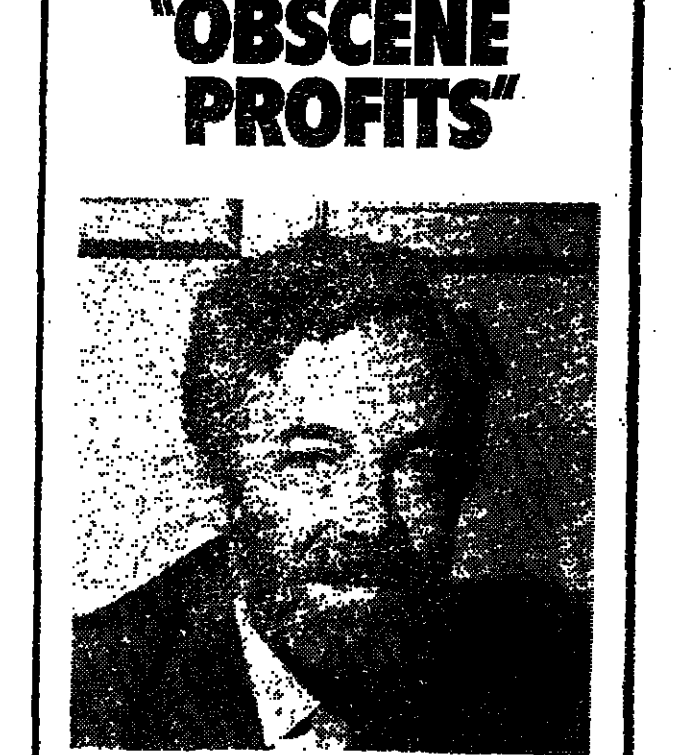
He was launching a report by the Commission's reference and community services division. It said that evacuees assisted by the Uganda Resettlement Board were cut off from sources of community support. Those helped by the East African community were cut off from the board's official resettlement assistance. The failure to use self-help

by the community was partly to blame for disturbing facts outlined by the report.

Nearly half the families are in overcrowded housing, one family in 10 has no wage-earner, half have low incomes, half have an elderly, sick or disabled member, and many have a deficient diet.

The appointment of five resettlement officers in areas where most Asian evacuees have settled is among recommendations to meet their continuing needs. Health visitors and community health workers were needed. There should be a loan service for selected Asians to borrow money, using as collateral the eventual repatriation of compensation for property in Uganda and insurance policies.

Refugee or Home: a policy statement on the resettlement of refugees. (Community Relations Commission, 75p).



Roger Opie, Fellow and Lecturer in Economics at New College, Oxford, talks to partners of Barrington Laurance about property and economics.

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The boom years

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Barrington Laurance

Consultant Surveyors specialising in Property Investment

71 South Audley Street, London W1Y 6RD

Telephone: 01-322 0747

Drinking is highest since 1914

Our Medical Reporter

The National Council on Alcoholism today says that alcohol consumption in Britain in 1974 was the highest since 1914.

giving a warning against excessive drinking, the council says the evidence that drinking is causing health problems is well documented.

In 1974 adults in Britain consumed 33 gallons of beer, 10 of wine and nearly two gallons of spirits, compared with 29 gallons of beer, 10 of wine and 1.5 gallons of spirits in 1914.

The council says that any increase in drinking is a cause for concern, and that the health of the nation is at risk. It says that the health of the nation is at risk.

£2.5m state aid for machine that did not exist

A company in Northern Ireland that was given £2.5m in government aid to produce electronic cash registers now employs 160 people making mechanical components for other companies. MPs learnt in a report made available yesterday.

The report is made by Mr P. A. Sythes, Comptroller and Auditor-General for Northern Ireland. The company is Regent International, of Londonderry. It is managed by appointees of the Northern Ireland Finance Corporation, a public body, which took over a controlling interest in September, 1974.

The Ulster Department of Commerce opened negotiations with the company, which was Norwegian-run, in 1970. The

department was not told that the company was heavily indebted to an American bank, and in 1971 a bank nominee replaced the majority shareholders with whom the department had been negotiating.

The company told the department that it had perfected an electronic cash register. The department believed the company's future profitability depended on the success of the machine.

In September, 1972, the company applied for assistance to help it to reach the market first with the electronic cash register. The industrial advisory committee to which the request was referred was concerned because it understood that the machine had already been developed.

It was now clear, the committee said, that the "earlier machine" was merely electro-mechanical. The department officials did not think it correct in 1970 to describe the machine as electronic "since it contained electronic as well as electrical and mechanical components".

But, the department said, it might have been an exaggeration to have said in 1970 that an electronic machine had been perfected. The department gave initial assistance of £1.6m and provided tenancy of factory and office space on generous financial terms.

In 1973 differences between the company's chairman and management appeared, and the department and the bank involved in endangering the company's operations. The Northern Ireland Finance Corporation then took a £175,000 holding, thus gaining control.

In 1974 the company was reorganised. Manufacture of cash registers ceased, and a change was made to other engineering products, assisted by continuing support from public funds of about £40,000 a month. A hundred redundancies reduced the work force to 250.

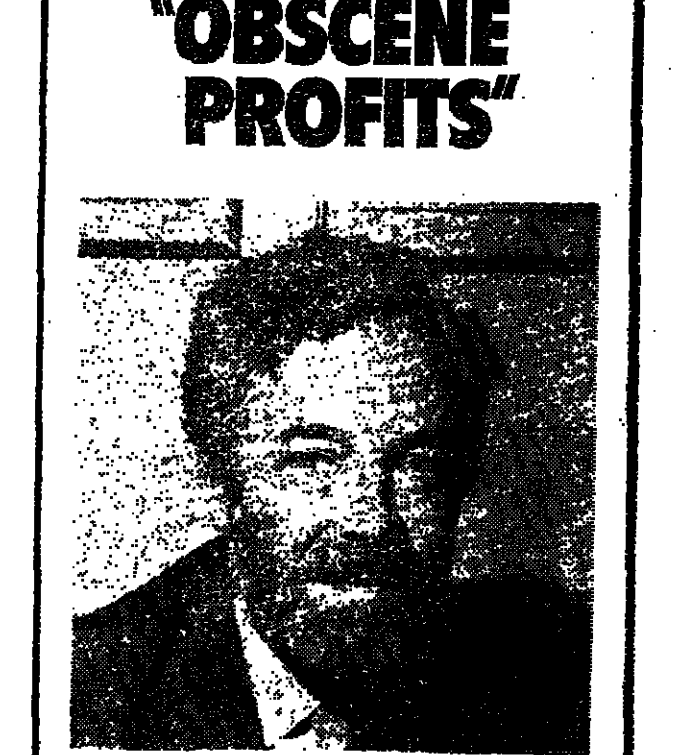
Mr Sythes states: "The total cost to public funds to August 31, 1975, of assisting this company has been £2.5m, of which the department has paid £1.2m and the finance corporation £1.3m."

Northern Ireland Appropriation Accounts, 1974-75. Stationery Office, £2.

Firms fear sugar 'mountain'

Makers of sweets and chocolate said yesterday that price rises proposed for British growers of sugar beet under EEC farm policy were excessive. "There is a strong possibility that there will be a sugar 'mountain' in the EEC next year," they added.

The proposed rise of just over 73p in the pound has been condemned as utterly inadequate by the National Farmers' Union. The amount to be paid will be decided next week by EEC ministers in the farm price review for member states. The NPU supports a claim by farmers throughout the EEC for a rise of 13p in the pound.



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Commission on gambling invites views

By a Staff Reporter

The Royal Commission on Gambling, set for the first time yesterday and invited views from organizations and individuals. It has been asked for an early interim report on the possibility of a levy on football pools to aid sport.

After the meeting, Lord Rothschild, the commission's chairman, said: "Gambling produces a hefty plus of revenue for the Exchequer and an almost equal quantity of emotion, both on the part of those who are hostile and of those who regard gambling as an innocent pastime."

"Many people will have views on this subject and we hope they will write to us about them."

The commission's address is 20 Grosvenor Hill, London W1X 0RX.

Football specials may run again with safeguards

From Arthur Osman

Mr Howell, Minister of State at the Department of the Environment with responsibility for sport and recreation, said yesterday that British Rail's operation in withdrawing football "specials" had cost it £750,000 in lost revenue this season.

It had now indicated that it did not wish to go on losing business to coach operators. A restricted service would probably start in a few weeks, with essential safeguards.

Supporters' club stewards would be offered free tickets and pay to police trains hired by the clubs, which would be allowed a favourable rate of commission.

Mr Howell made his remarks when told that West Midlands County Council was to make a determined effort to control the

Catcalls as RC archbishop meets moderator

From Our Correspondent, Glasgow

Pastor Jack Glass, leader of a band of militant Protestants, stood with about 20 of his supporters carrying anti-Catholic placards and catcalling outside Notre Dame College of Education in Glasgow last night as the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Dr James Macdonald, arrived at the guest of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Glasgow, Mr Thomas J. Winning.

The moderator addressed priests and lay people from the archdiocese.

Dr Macdonald, speaking of religious segregation in Glasgow schools said: "If we are ever to get rid of built-in prejudice and ignorance of each other, if we are to have one Christian people instead of two, then we must bring up our children together, not apart. We must work and pray and plan towards integration."

Mr Macdonald said later: "We are anxious for the Catholic Church to maintain the system of education which ensures that we are able to give our children a Christian formation."

At present I cannot see that Christian formation being done adequately in the non-denominational school system, but I should like to think that we would all work together towards the day when there would be no religious segregation, which would be acceptable to committed Catholics and committed Christians."

In his address, the moderator had said of religious division: "We have a lot to ask forgiveness for—and I speak as a Church of Scotland minister—for the ignorance and prejudice we have fostered. We must offer our repentance for it."

Former Speaker supports more Commons TV

The more the House of Commons could be exposed to television, the better, Speaker Selwyn Lloyd, the former Speaker, said at a Parliamentary Press Gallery luncheon yesterday.

Mr Lloyd, who resigned as Speaker earlier this month, was guest of honour at the luncheon, which was most important that people should see and hear how the House is behaving, he said. "Parliament must come much more into the public eye and ear."

He said the broadcasting experiments were a great success, and he denied that behaviour in the Commons had deteriorated.

"We have our difficult MPs," he said, and laughter. "Our standards of behaviour outside the House have deteriorated, much more than those within it."

Nurses get £6 rises

Pay increases of £6 a week across the board from April 1 have been agreed for 415,000 nurses and 16,500 other health service workers, the National and Local Government Officers' Association said yesterday. The total cost of the rise, the union added, would be £124.4m a year.

Examples of the new salaries (basic plus pay supplement) are: Pupil, £1,872; auxiliary, £2,298 (maximum); ward sister, £3,000; and ward sister, £3,864 (maximum). Lodging charges for resident nurses will rise.

Samaritans often asked for help by unemployed

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Unemployment difficulties appear to be increasing suicide and suicide attempts in Britain, the Samaritans organization suggested yesterday.

Young people leaving schools or universities but unable to find jobs are turning increasingly to the organization for help. So are middle-aged men who cannot sell their wives when they are made redundant.

Figures produced yesterday by the Samaritans showed an increase in the number of young people (those under the age of 24) asking the organization for help. Last year 52,370 called for the first time, an increase of 4,300 over 1974. The total number of clients was 209,478, compared with 192,284 in 1974.

Moorgate girl leaves police

Miss Margaret Liles, aged 20, whose left leg was amputated below the knee after last year's Moorgate Tube disaster, has left the City of London Police, which she joined a week before the crash which killed 43 people.

She resigned after deciding to accept the disability pension offered to her when she "returned unfit".

Passport fees to be increased

Fees for passports and consular services are to be increased under an Order in Council published yesterday.

The fee for a standard passport will go up from £5 to £6, with a 50p increase in the fee for other passport service fees. The fee for a British visitor's passport will rise from £3 to £4.

Multiple candidacy

Mr William S. Dunmore, of Crofton, founder of the Logic Party, yesterday announced his intention to stand in the by-elections at Coventry, North-west, Sutton, Carshalton and Wilt.

Opencast mine rejected

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, has rejected the National Coal Board's plans for an opencast working on a 359-acre site at Medomsley, co Durham.

Unsatisfied viewers are on the increase

Our Arts Reporter

Public satisfaction with television programmes has been falling off, according to a survey published by the BBC's Audience Research Department.

Findings, covering the 1974-75, are based on what now as the Satisfaction Survey, compiled from replies by television viewers and listeners. The listeners generally more satisfied than the viewers.

The index ranges from +100 and the present trend is shown to be a fall of +40, with 30 per cent or less completely satisfied, 30 per cent fairly satisfied, and 40 per cent not without reservations.

Industrial action planned over ambulancemen

By Our Labour Staff

Industrial action is being planned by the National Association of Ambulance Officers (NAAO) unless a dispute over the assimilation of 270 London ambulance officers into a national pay structure is settled on Monday.

NAAO said yesterday that the action would involve emergency cover in central London. This would not endanger life but would seriously inconvenience hospital services.

Union officials are to meet Mr Meacher, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, on Monday. They said yesterday that unless there was a satisfactory outcome to the talks, they would set a date for action.

Woman cleared of harbouring alleged terrorist

Mrs Lynne Egan, aged 28, accused of harbouring an alleged IRA bomb terrorist, was cleared by Southampton magistrates. The court was told that the Director of Public Prosecutions had decided to offer no evidence against her.

Mrs Egan, of Chiffert Green, Millbrook, Southampton, was arrested in November, was charged with harbouring Donald Brian McLoughlin, also known as Steve McCann, after he had maliciously placed a bomb with intent to cause an explosion. She was awarded personal costs of £39.

Old bomb defused

Army bomb disposal men yesterday defused a 300lb Second World War bomb found on a building site at Lancing.

Thameside development plans rejected

Alternative schemes to develop the area of Bath have been rejected by Mr Croxall, Secretary of State for the Environment. He has backed Bath Council, which rejected schemes, which led to public inquiries into the plans by field, a Yeovil company, a restaurant, public house, parking and a football club.

John Dahl, the inquiry officer, recommended the company should be given permission to build a 12m project, and that the area should be developed in a residential and industrial use, and give way to predominantly residential development at the other buildings on the site.

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HOME NEWS

Fear of Ulster prison violence over ending of 'political status'

From Michael Horsnell

Belfast

The threat of renewed violence in Northern Ireland prisons increased yesterday when the Government's plans to end special category status for "political prisoners" from Monday were disclosed.

Reliable sources indicated that there would be no compromise with the "loyalist" paramilitary groups who say they will accept prison uniform and work if they are allowed to return to their self-contained compounds at night.

The Government is understood, however, to be aware that, although existing special category prisoners will not be affected by the new plans, offenders after March 1 will be housed in new cell units at the Maze prison, and that the compounds, in which discipline is poor, will be phased out.

Loyalist fury in and outside the prisons is now expected to be added to a campaign by the Provisional IRA to oppose the ending of political status, which was conceded by Mr Whitelaw, when Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, in 1972 after hunger strikes by republican prisoners. Demonstrations similar to those of two years ago when republican prisoners burnt down much of Long Kesh might follow.

But the Government is firmly determined to tackle the issue of special category prisoners after the conclusion by Mr Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, last November that it gave spurious approval to some of the worst excesses of the Provisional IRA.

The plan is part of a Government decision to implement a new remission scheme in Northern Ireland that will allow prisoners conditional release for good behaviour after half their sentences have been served instead of two thirds. But on subsequent conviction they will serve the balance, plus their new sentence. The scheme is being introduced because conditions in Northern Ireland make it impossible to implement the United Kingdom mainland remission scheme, and prisoners never know when they will be released.

About 612 prisoners will be released in the next four months, including 449 in the special category, of which 271 are republicans and 178 loyalists.

Under the former system only about 150 prisoners would normally have been released in the same period. There are 1,504 special category prisoners in Northern Ireland now, out of a total prison population of 2,852.

The Government, which is spending £50m on prison rebuilding in Ulster in the next five years, claims the average benefit of those men given an early release is 59 months, and the maximum is 25 months.

In another development yesterday it was disclosed that the Ulster Convention will end on Tuesday after a one-day debate on the United Ulster Unionist Coalition motion calling for acceptance of its Convention proposals.

At a one-hour meeting of the Convention's business committee only Mr Oliver Napier, leader of the Alliance Party, called for a three-day discussion.

The UUUC contention is that the motion should form the substance of a reply to Mr Rees's call for partnership and participation in government. Mr Napier says it is expected to put forward an amendment calling for a referendum on a voluntary coalition, but that should be easily defeated.

The UUUC will meet today to discuss tactics for the future in a situation of continuing direct rule.

Early yesterday a 600lb proxy car bomb left between the police station and a garage at Roostbridge was defused by an army bomb disposal expert.

It was alleged that Brendan Magill, aged 45, former organizer for Provisional Sinn Féin in Britain, was accused at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday of being a member of the IRA (the Press Association reports).

During the 10-minute hearing he accused the police of arresting his son, aged 15, to blackmail him into recognizing the IRA. Mr Magill, of Dundrum, Dublin, was remanded in custody until March 19. He did not apply for bail.

Mr Magill said the police "have browbeaten my son all day yesterday and tried to force a confession out of him. The price of my son getting out of jail is recognizing this court and turning my back on the Irish republican movement."

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Those figures, produced by statisticians at the Department of Trade, helped to persuade Mr Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, to withdraw in the recent review of British civil aviation, the designation of Laker as a scheduled airline across the North Atlantic.

Mr Shore will use the figures in a speech today in a Commons debate on the review. Employees of Laker are due to lobby MPs in support of the Skytrain.

In the Government's case against the Skytrain published yesterday, it is recalled that the annual capacity of the service licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority, is 255,408 seats. That figure would need to be doubled to include the capacity of a competing United States Skytrain.

If four-fifths of the seats were sold, the total number of passengers carried by both Skytrains would be 408,652. That represents one-third of all London-New York traffic carried in 1974.

The annual result of introducing such a service would probably be that all subsonic flights between London and New York would be of the Skytrain type.

Newly-generated traffic on Skytrain would probably amount to a quarter at most, according to the government paper. British Airways estimated that the damage to its gross revenues from the diversion of traffic to Skytrain would be £3m a year from the Laker Skytrain and a further £3m from a United States Skytrain.

The net effect of the Laker Skytrain on the United Kingdom balance of payments would be £1.1m. The United States Skytrain—£1.1m. There would be a net addition to tourist expenditure of £1.3m, but the foreign exchange cost of imported fuel and other items would worsen the deficit by £2.2m.

In a recent document on its Skytrain proposals, Laker forecast that they would benefit the balance of payments by £19.4m.

Local authority employees show further increase

By Our Local Government Correspondent

The number of local authority employees in England and Wales increased by a small proportion for the second successive quarter, "according to figures published by the Department of the Environment yesterday."

The total at September 13, 1975, was 1,569,070 full-time and 598,122 part-time staff, showing an increase of 17,118 (1.1 per cent) full-time and a decrease of 18,822 (minus 2.05 per cent) part-time employees on the revised figures for the June quarter.

Using the conversion system adopted for the staff survey to express part-time employees as full-time equivalents, the total of full-time and equivalent staff shows an increase of 14,038 (0.74 per cent) over the quarter from 1,904,930 to 1,918,968.

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The joint staff survey was set up in March, 1975, between government and local authorities to monitor the number of employees in the whole range of local authority activities, after widespread concern at staffing levels as a result of reorganization.

Commenting on the latest quarterly figures, which cover a period of no-growth for local government, the department said it was considered "very early to detect trends in the figures, which are likely to be affected by a number of factors, including seasonal fluctuations."

Water shortage

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WEST EUROPE

EEC hopes for unlimited source of cheap energy again dashed as ministers wrangle over site

From Michael Horsnell

Brussels, Feb 25

Progress on the most important part of the EEC's ambitious programme of research into thermonuclear fusion, which could provide the Community with a cheap, safe and unlimited source of energy, was blocked after an all-night meeting of the Council of Ministers ended in deadlock in Brussels today.

As at the previous meeting last December, the stumbling block was the choice of site for the building of the Joint European Torus, a giant experimental ring designed to test reactor conditions required for controlled thermonuclear fusion, the energy source of the sun.

After hours of wrangling, the ministers agreed to set up a committee, comprising mainly national delegates, which is to take a fresh look at the comparative technical merits of the sites being considered for the Torus. These include the laboratories at Culham, near Oxford.

Mr Guido Brunner, the EEC's Commissioner responsible for research, said the committee would report on its findings at the beginning of May and that another meeting of research ministers would be held on June 18 in an attempt to break the deadlock. In the meantime, the matter might also be taken up by foreign ministers and heads of government.

It was vital, Dr Brunner said, that a decision should be taken in June. Further delay could lead to loss of ground to the Soviet Union and the United States, which are pursuing comparable lines of research and might also encourage the Community's own fusion scientists to look elsewhere for employment.

The main task of the new committee will be to determine whether previous experience of fusion research and the related science of plasma physics is an indispensable requirement for the Jet site. Absence of such experience is the main British and German argument against the EEC's joint research centre at Ispra, in northern Italy.

Ispra has been strongly recommended by the European Commission, which disputes the relevance of the fusion skill of Culham and Garching, near Munich, to the construction phase of the Jet. The choice of Ispra, the Commission feels, would put a Community seal on the project and counter the tendency to national fragmentation of research.

Mr Alexander Badie, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Energy, argued last night that Culham was technically the site that offered the best chance of success for the Jet, without the need to develop a container for plasma (ionized gas) at the extremes of temperature and density required to stimulate the fusion of light positive results of last night's discussion was approval of the financial framework of the next five-year stage of the EEC's fusion research programme, which would have begun on January 1. Ministers agreed that the Community contribution should be 232 million units of account (about £96m).

Of this total, 108 million units of account is to be set aside for the Jet, about 80 per cent of the project's estimated total cost. The ministers also approved those parts of the EEC's fusion programme directly linked to the Jet project, but on Italian insistence they sanctioned only one year's expenditure.

In addition, the Italians abandoned the link they had previously maintained between

the requirements of information and public order. The Cabinet today discussed steps to improve the security of French citizens, who, feeling threatened by the general increase in crime and the recent spate of kidnappings and hold-ups, have called for greater severity by the police and the law. In particular, the Minister of the Interior, Mr Raymond Aron, outlined several measures to reduce criminality, including a tightening of regulations on the sale and possession of firearms and explosives; stiffer sanctions for the illegal wearing of police insignia or uniforms; extension of the right of customs officers to search vehicles to the police and gendarmerie; and compensation for people who assist police or persons in danger, and victims of bomb attacks.

The other side of the law and order picture was discussed today in the National Assembly by a special committee on freedoms presided over by M. Edgar Faure. It has before it two Bills, one tabled by the majority and another by the Communists.

Mr Raymond Aron, the socialist, said that he thought the whole exercise somewhat academic. "The present world does not lack declarations but rather the reality of human rights," he said.

Dijon, Feb 25—A court here today sentenced to death Algerian-born Mousa Benzaïra, aged 44, for the murder in 1974 of a widow aged 83 while robbing her of her life savings of 12,000 francs (about £1,400). No death sentence has been carried out in France since 1973—AP.

While the note spoke of "various passengers" and only one flight from Helsinki to Las Palmas, Spanish newspapers alleged that as many as 110 people were taken seriously ill and that two other Spaniards had been affected.

The other flights originated in Girona, Madrid and Barcelona, and arrived in the Canary Islands. The flight which carried the child, who died apparently arrived in Las Palmas last Saturday.

With myocardial and myocardial infarction in Finland high on the list of suspected items, an investigation is under way. The Spaniards, catering centre in Las Palmas, furnished a menu as 8,000 meals a day, has been closed. Spanish authorities have announced that they will pay medical bills of the sick holidaymakers.

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Paris Cabinet tackles crime wave fears

From Charles Hargrove

Paris, Feb 25

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Paris Cabinet tackles crime wave fears

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Police shoot youth dead in clash near Alicante

From Harry Debellus

Madrid, Feb 25

Police shot dead a 20-year-old clerk near Alicante. It was learnt here today. He was the first person to die in a clash between demonstrators and police during the reign of King Juan Carlos.

The victim, Señor Teófilo del Valle Pérez, was killed in the shoe manufacturing town of Elda, about 22 miles from Alicante, at approximately 11.15 pm last night after an unauthorized assembly of striking leather workers.

Armed security forces stood by but did not interfere with the assembly. However, according to an official statement, they went into action later, counter-attacking demonstrators with three stones at a police bus when the demonstrators were leaving to return to their headquarters in Alicante.

The official statement alleged that the security police opened fire "when some shots were heard". Nevertheless, no evidence has so far appeared to indicate that anyone but the police carried firearms or that any shots were fired by anyone but policemen.

The Government further alleged that the dead man and two other men arrested in the clash had criminal records. In the case of the man killed by police, the official statement said that he had been "a disorderly life" and had been arrested previously in Madrid "apparently as a member of a gang of drug traffickers; 735 kilos (163 lbs) of hashish which he had hidden in a 'safe house' were confiscated."

The statement did not say whether the man had ever been convicted of any crime; nor did it say whether any disciplinary action would be taken against those responsible for his death.

This morning, only hours after the fatal shooting, a Madrid court indicted two journalists on a charge of libelling a leader of the extreme Right, Señor José Antonio Girón, a former Franco minister.

The two charged were the director and the former editor-in-chief of the weekly magazine, Señor Alfonso Sobrado Falcó, and Señor Miguel Ángel Aguilar. Señor Aguilar was a former member of the editorial staff of the evening newspaper Madrid which was put out of business by the Government when Señor Manuel Fraga, the present Interior Minister, was General Franco's Minister of Information and Tourism.

The Public Order Court, which deals only with political offences, today indicted Señor Sobrado Falcó, a self-confessed member of the national coordinating committee of the Moscow-oriented Spanish Communist Party. He had already been fined in pesetas (₧7,510) without trial for the same offence in 1974 when he said he had no funds to pay the fine.

Tainted food served on board a Spanish charter airline killed a Finnish boy aged five and made over 100 other passengers sick, it was confirmed here today.

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Air Force Anglo-Portuguese cannot export communist revolution

Moscow, Feb 25.—Dr Fidel Castro, the Cuban Prime Minister, declared here today that it was impossible for Cuba to export the communist revolution to other countries.

"No one can impose revolution by means of war," he told 1,000 applauding delegates at the twenty-fifth congress of the communist Party. "But no one can prevent a nation from having a revolution."

Dr Castro's remarks, quoted by Tass, appeared intended to counter criticism that Cuba is exporting "revolution" to Africa and Latin America by committing Cuban troops to rebel movements, particularly in Angola.

Following yesterday's lead of Mr Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet Premier, a Russian official said today that there could be no deviation from the orthodox Moscow line of pure communism. Mr Vladimir I. Shcherbitykh, a Russian official, said today that the congress is to combat "alien trends," including nationalism.

Analysts said his warning was apparently aimed at Western communist parties which have shown increasing signs of following "nationalist" policies tailored to their national characters and of making alliances with non-communist parties.

Mr Shcherbitykh is one of the most powerful men in the Soviet Union. First Secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party and a member of the Politburo, he declared today: "The defence of proletarian internationalism is a sacred duty of each communist and workers' party and of every Marxist-Leninist."

He also spoke of "the danger of infiltration into communist parties by revisionist influences of the rightist or leftist type (or) by nationalist and other views alien to the ideology of the working class."

Mr Shcherbitykh named Maoism as such a threat, but Western observers saw the remarks as more aimed at the French and Italian Communists who have rejected Moscow's strict interpretation of party dogma.

The amount of attention given by speakers to revisionism in communist ranks suggests considerable concern among Kremlin leaders and followers of the Moscow line that the Russians may be losing their grip on the international revolutionary movement.

Mr Edward Gierak, the Polish party chief and one of the Kremlin's closest allies in Eastern Europe, urged the "strengthening of ideological unity among the forces of socialism." Mr Piotr Mashekov, party chief of the Byelorussian Republic, said: "To say Marxism-Leninism has become antiquated is like saying that Newton's 300-year-old law (of gravity) is antiquated too."

The Moscow party chief, Mr Victor Grishin, briefly alluded to problems of ideological impurities at home when he said citizens of the Soviet Union were exposed to ideological influences from other citizens because of all the foreigners in Moscow.

Mr Gustav Husak, the Czechoslovak leader, echoed other speakers in giving a warning against revisionist and nationalist influences in Communist parties.

Western journalists could only report the speeches at second-hand because non-communist and workers' parties were not permitted to attend the sessions, held in the modern Palace of Congresses within the Kremlin. All Soviet leaders, including Mr Brezhnev, were reported to have attended today's session.—AP and UPI.

11 police hurt in fight over Tokyo airport

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Feb 25

After preventing all attempts for four years to open Tokyo's new, gleaming but unused international airport near Narita, a town 40 miles east of the city, 11 police officers clashed today with 500 riotous protesters in a violent battle over the airport.

The trouble began when the Government set out to remove two steel towers blocking the flight path to the main runway.

The airport, completed at a cost of \$380m, was supposed to open in 1971 but it has remained unused because protesters built the towers on private land opposite the end of the runway.

Knowing that the issue has caused violent clashes in the past, the Government has not seriously attempted to remove the towers previously.

However, frustrated officials from the Tokyo Airport Corporation, overwhelmed by the troubles of the overcrowded international airport at Haneda, and confronted by the protesters' refusal to leave the site, decided to support the residents.

As shown this morning, the decision is likely to provoke a new wave of violence because radical student organizations in Tokyo and other large cities are expected to support the residents.

Eleven police and a number of demonstrators were injured and 48 were arrested in today's bitter clash which began when 550 construction workers, protected by police, began to build a road towards the main obstruction, a 203ft tower, 800 yards from the end of the runway.

A mob of angry farmers and radical students began to hurl stones and other missiles at the police as workers attempted to remove barricades around the tower. After two hours of violence the police announced that the demonstrators had been cleared from the site.

However, volunteers have manned a platform half way up the tower and the association of protesting residents has threatened to mount a counter demonstration to prevent the latest attempt to open the airport.

Plagued by other protest campaigns, the idle control tower at Narita has still not seen an aircraft land on the 4,000-yard runway. A new terminal building in the centre of Tokyo lies vacant and Japan Airlines is reported to be paying more than \$1m in interest every year for unused facilities at the new airport.

The protest campaign has delayed plans to build an express railway between Tokyo and the new airport. At present it could take up to three hours to drive to the airport in heavy traffic. Alternatively passengers face a 90-minute train journey.

Detention law test case ends

From Our Correspondent
Albany, Feb 25

The Indian Supreme Court has reserved judgment in a habeas corpus case it has been hearing since December 15. The case concerns a person detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act and has come to court to challenge the Government's right to arrest through a habeas corpus petition.

The Government maintained that during the emergency there was no right to inquire to the grounds of arrest. This has been challenged by lawyers presenting a number of affidavits.

Although the case before the Supreme Court deals with only one of a dozen of the political prisoners arrested since the start of the emergency, the verdict would apply to thousands of others jailed in the last eight months.

Canada considers curb on aliens

Ottawa, Feb 25.—Changes opposed today in Canada's citizenship Act would permit a country's law provinces to refuse entry to aliens under existing law, aliens as much right to buy as Canadians.

New York council bans street drinking

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Feb 25

After a heated debate, New York City council has passed a measure which would make it illegal to drink in the streets.

The measure still has to be approved by Mayor John Lindsay, and there is some speculation that he will veto it.

The promoters, who succeeded by 25 votes to 12, argued that something should be done to prevent public drinking and antisocial behaviour. During the debate, they said, such drinking takes place in several parts of the city, and leads to passers-by being annoyed.

Its opponents attacked the measure vigorously as being an unreasonable restriction.

Rockefeller years 'led to scandal'

From Our Own Correspondent
New York, Feb 25

Vice-President Rockefeller was sharply criticised today on the mismanagement of nursing homes in and around New York. This mismanagement has become a serious scandal in the past year or two and Mr Rockefeller has been criticised for allowing it to take place during his years as Governor of New York State.

Gruesome details of the maltreatment of patients in New York nursing homes have already been given in public hearings. The Rev Bernard Bergman, a rabbi, and one of the main nursing home operators, was indicted last August on charges of embezzling \$1,200,000 (£600,000) which came from the Medicaid funds.

Today's report, entitled *Political Influence and Political Accountability*, goes into the network of contacts which led to the abuses.

One of the difficulties presented by the decision is that there may not be enough police to enforce it.

Planes fly again

Lagos, Feb 25.—Twelve days after the abortive coup, Nigeria has lifted its ban on international flights in and out of the country, and curfew restrictions have been eased.



Winning smile: Mr Jimmy Carter, former Governor of Georgia, was in a happy mood while campaigning in New York on Tuesday, after early results pointed to his New Hampshire primary victory.

Mr Nixon quotes Mao to Chinese

From David Bonavia
Peking, Feb 25

Mr Richard Nixon's four-day visit to Peking has evidently done more to restore cordial relations between China and the United States than the recent visit of President Ford and the past three visits of Dr Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State.

At a farewell banquet tonight, Mr Hua Kuo-feng, China's new acting Prime Minister, spoke more warmly of Sino-American relations than did Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, the man he has apparently eclipsed in the hierarchy, during Mr Ford's and Dr Kissinger's last visit in December.

During his visit in 1972 Mr Nixon had "contributed to reopening the door to contacts between the Chinese and American peoples," Mr Hua said.

Mr Nixon gave a highly professional performance, reciting a longish speech without notes and dwelling at length on the contribution of his previous visit and the resulting Shanghai communiqué which established a new basis for Sino-American relations.

Formerly separated America and China, Mr Nixon said: "We have begun to build a great bridge that will reach all the way from the Golden Gate to California to the Golden Gate of Heavenly Peace in Peking."

Mr Hua said the two sides had "several candid and unconstrained talks, in which we reviewed the great changes which have taken place in the international situation since 1972 and exchanged views on international issues of mutual interest."

"Both sides hold that it is the common desire of our two peoples to enhance the friendship between the Chinese and American peoples and further the improvement of Sino-American relations on the basis of the principles of the Shanghai communiqué," Mr Hua added.

The former American President said he had been particularly impressed by Mr Teng's remarks on the determination of the Chinese people to be ready for war if it should come.

Mr Nixon also said that areas of common interest between China and the United States were far more important than areas of difference, and he quoted Chairman Mao as saying that "nothing is hard in this world if one dares to scale the heights."

In listening to Mr Nixon one would never have imagined that he was not the still the President of the United States. For instance, in talking of bridge-building, he said: "In this enormous project we must continue and we must not fail."

Earlier today, Mr Nixon was invited to Tsinghua University in Peking, the main centre of the wall poster campaign apparently aimed at Mr Teng.

The campaign against Mr Teng has shifted into higher gear this week with the publication in the *People's Daily* of a quotation ascribed to Chairman Mao and apparently less than two months old. Chairman Mao is alleged to have said: "What is all this stuff about the three basic directives?"

This refers to the allegations of radical elements that Mr Teng coined this concept last year in order to muzzle public opinion in the wake of Chairman Mao's ideas on the priority of class struggle with his own beliefs in the importance of economic and technological progress.

Our Washington Correspondent writes: President Ford today personally denied having encouraged Mr Nixon to make his journey to China—a claim made here yesterday by Rabbi Baruch Korff, an ardent Nixon supporter.

In Washington there has been some furious comment. Last night Mr Stuart Spencer, Mr Ford's national campaign manager, complained somewhat prematurely that "if President Ford loses New Hampshire Richard Nixon will be the reason."

Senator Darryl Goldwater added this characteristic comment on the Nixon trip: "If he wants to do this country a favour, he might say over there."

In brief

Independence for Bantu homeland

Cape Town, Feb 25.—The South African Government is to grant independence to the Bophuthatse Bantu homeland as soon as possible. It will become the second black South African territory to opt for separate statehood in terms of the policy of separate development. The Transkei will become independent in October.

Contraceptives ban

Washington, Feb 25.—Three American drug companies have stopped marketing the oral contraceptives Oracoin, Ortho-Novum SQ and Norquams because of new evidence that they may be harmful to women.

Hunger striker well

Belgrade, Feb 25.—Official sources said that Mr Mihajlo Mijatovic, the dissident writer who has been on hunger strike for 80 days, is in good health after earlier fears for his life.

Season of death

Istanbul, Feb 25.—A severe winter in Turkey has caused more than 300 deaths and prevented medical supplies from reaching villages where a measles epidemic has killed about 25 children.

Hussain world tour

Amman, Feb 25.—King Hussein and Queen Alia began a six-week world tour next weekend, which will include Australia, Japan, Mexico, the United States and Britain.

Nureyev goes home

Los Angeles, Feb 25.—Rudolf Nureyev, the ballet dancer, who has been ill, has cancelled scheduled appearances in the United States and has returned to his home in Monte Carlo.

Rivals jockey for power in new Lebanese Cabinet

Beirut, Feb 25.—Lebanese politicians squabbled today over power-sharing in a projected government of national unity. But unanimously agreed in public statements that the civil war is over.

"There can be no return to sectarian fighting. This is unthinkable," said Mr Kamel Jumblatt, tribal head of Lebanon's left-wing private armies. He made the statement after a third meeting with Mr Abdul Halim Khaddam, the Syrian Foreign Minister, who negotiated the 34-day-old ceasefire commission sought today to curb a fresh outbreak of Muslim-Christian abductions at gunpoint. The commission has received reports that 20 people were abducted or missing during the past 48 hours.—AP.

The Muslim Prime Minister, to carry out the reforms, Mr Kamel Assad, the Interior Minister, and the Interior Minister, Mr Phalange Party leader, Mr Pierre Gemayel, who fielded the biggest right-wing militias in the conflict, also claimed that a resumption of fighting is unlikely.

Mr Kamel Assad, the Speaker of Parliament, told reporters he expects President Suleiman Franjeh to decree the formation of the new Cabinet tomorrow or on Friday.

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Growing doubts over Rabin policy

From Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, Feb 25

Dr Roberto Guyer, special representative of Dr Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, held talks here today with Mr Allon, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and other officials.

No details were disclosed but he was presumably informed officially of the Israeli Cabinet's weekend decision to rely on American initiative for further progress towards Middle East peace rather than on the United Nations, composed largely of states hostile to Israel.

Continuing adverse reaction to the Cabinet's reluctant decision indicates that there are many Israelis who doubt the wisdom of trusting to American mediation and that Mr Rabin's delay in disclosing full details of his recent exchanges in Washington has increased the unease over his performance as Prime Minister.

The Cabinet agreed to authorize Mr Rabin to inform the United States that Israel was ready to consider the possibility of an agreement "to end the state of war" with Jordan as well as with Egypt and Syria. Its approval was given to a summarized version of an earlier detailed proposal by Mr Rabin which took most Cabinet members by surprise and provoked opposition from both hawkish and dovish ministers.

However, the right-wing opposition party, has unsuccessfully pressed for an urgent debate on a motion accusing the Government of willingness to settle for "less than peace" with the Arabs. The Knesset (Parliament) Speaker refused to concede its urgency and deferred the debate till next week.

By then Mr Rabin will have faced critics within his Labour Party at a meeting of the

Congress threat to officials who intercepted cables

From Our Own Correspondent
Washington, Feb 25

In a sudden flare-up over presidential privilege and official secrecy, a congressional subcommittee today voted to recommend that five present and former officials be cited for contempt of Congress for refusing to answer questions about government interception of overseas telecommunications.

The affair concerns Operation Shamrock, a 30-year-old programme of surveillance of overseas cables and teletype messages by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the National Security Agency. The allegedly illegal monitoring may be continuing by electronic means, in spite of a formal government renunciation, have been voiced in the House of Representatives subcommittee on government operations.

However, President Ford, acting through the Attorney General, has invoked "executive privilege" to prevent officials from supplying the committee with information.

Peace-group alleges West Bank torture

From Our Own Correspondent
Jerusalem, Feb 25

The Council for a Just Peace between Israel and the Arab States alleged at a press conference here today that the Israeli authorities were using mass arrests, interrogation under torture, trial by military tribunals and administrative punishment to suppress political expression in the occupied areas.

Mr Natan Yellin-Mor, the council chairman, who was a member of the Stern terrorist organization during the British mandate, introduced three West Bank Arabs who claimed that they or their relatives had been unjustly arrested and in some cases tortured during interrogation. They claimed the Israeli press was ignoring what was happening in the West Bank and appealed for a fair hearing.

In fairness, it ought to be noted that a press conference of this kind could not be held in Israel or in any other Middle East country, and that a summary of it was given on Israel's national radio programme.

Emotions ran high at times and the council threatened to develop into a slanging match between Israeli members of the council and journalists angered by the Arab allegations, which they denounced as unsubstantiated.

Mr Muhammad Abu Ghazib, a labourer and former trade union official, said he was one of number of detainees released last month. He said he was arrested in April 1974 and held for 21 months without trial. During three months of interrogation he was tortured. His interrogators also put him alternately in a very hot room and then into the cold "because they knew I had had tuberculosis."

Mrs Felicia Langer, his lawyer, admitted that there was no medical evidence of torture but said that which had been seen only by army doctors.

Mr Yakub Farah, another former detainee who is on the staff of *Al Fajr* (Dawn), the pro-Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) newspaper, claimed that many children had been detained during the recent demonstrations in Jerusalem. His brother, aged 12, had been arrested and beaten.

The third Arab present, Mrs Arafat, said her husband was arrested on April 23, 1974, and had been held without trial since then. She claimed she had seen the results of torture on two recently released detainees.

Mrs Langer supported her evidence, adding that she had seen many other prisoners with scars and open wounds.

Asked whether any independent body had inquired into the allegations of torture, Mrs Langer said she had submitted all the evidence and many other cases to Amnesty International.

Two kidnapped Americans freed in Beirut

Beirut, Feb 25.—Two American officials, kidnapped more than four months ago, were released tonight at the home of a Lebanese politician, Mr Kamel Jumblatt, according to an official of his Progressive Socialist Party.

They are Mr Charles Gallagher, aged 44, director of a United States Information Agency, and his assistant, Mr William Dykes. Palestinian sources said a Lebanese group which sympathizes with the Palestinian commandos had held the two Americans for ransom. The group was a pledge by the United States Embassy that two Palestinians jailed in Israel would be freed. But a United States Embassy spokesman said it had no knowledge of that report.—Reuters.

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Court challenge on 'naive' Miss Hearst

San Francisco, Feb 25.—Miss Patricia Hearst, the newspaper heiress on trial here on bank robbery charges, smoked marijuana and experimented with other drugs given to her by Mr Steven Weed, her fiancé, before her kidnapping, a psychiatrist said today.

Mr David Sencer, a prosecution counsel, said he was producing this evidence to show that before her abduction Miss Hearst was not a "naive school girl" as the defence had tried to portray her.—UPI.

Family Division

Dissipation of assets after separation

Martin v Martin
Before Mr Justice Purchas

A husband's conduct in dissipating the family assets after a separation was a factor to be taken into account when considering financial provision under section 17 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1973.

Mr Justice Purchas so stated, in a judgment in open court after a hearing in chambers, of an application by Mrs Vera Martin, of Potts Farm, Tenterden, Kent, for financial provision.

Mr A. B. Hollis, QC, and Mr Michael Addison, QC, and Miss J. R. Constance, QC, appeared for Mrs Martin. Mr Eric Keith Martin, of Minehead, Somerset, appeared for Mr Martin.

HIS LORDSHIP said that after the grant of a decree to the wife, based on the husband's adultery, she applied for financial provision. The application raised the issue whether conduct of the parties since separation was relevant to the preservation, enhancement or destruction of family assets when exercising the powers to make provision under the Matrimonial Causes Act.

The parties separated in 1959, since then the wife had worked diligently in enhancing the value of a farming business worth £53,770, while the husband had dissipated assets of £33,000. The money had been lost in successive business adventures upon which the husband had embarked with another woman.

The parties married in 1942, the husband was aged 22 and the wife 22. Neither brought assets of substance into the marriage. By successful property transactions they bought Potts Farm. Both worked hard, but the wife was the more skilful farmer.

In 1967, because of matrimonial disputes, the wife left the farm but returned in 1968. After the reconciliation an agreement was made between the parties which transferred to the wife all the shares, money, bank balances and insurance policies. The husband gave an undertaking to the wife that he would not dissipate the assets of the farm.

In 1968 the husband's gross profit was £932, and there was a net loss of £3,479. With the marriage there was a dramatic improvement. The gross profit rose to £2,491 and the net loss became a net gain of £4,083. The overdraft was reduced to £3,854.

In 1969 the husband met a widow, Mrs Freeman, and he left his wife and bought a post office business.

By 1970 the wife was aware of Mrs Freeman's presence in the husband's life. She knew that the husband had charged the farm to the extent of £14,000 with a Graveland bank.

His Lordship referred to the husband's conduct in dissipating the assets of the farm, including the purchase of a farm in Somerset for £99,000 and £10,000 for the purchase of a £89,000 bank overdraft. That property had had to be sold for £55,000 in October, 1973.

Mrs Freeman, who bought the Wyndham Hotel, Aldeburgh, the husband stated that the hotel purchase was not a concern of his, that he was not involved in the business and living on social security. His Lordship, however, had come to the conclusion that the husband and Mrs Freeman intended to continue their business relationship.

Since 1972 the wife's farm business had prospered, but she would be faced with substantial capital expenses in the future. The agreed value of the farm, land and buildings was £45,000. The Graveland overdraft was now £21,182.

Mr Jackson urged that the court should order the husband to pay periodical payments of 10p a year to the wife and £3,000 by way of lump sum; and to transfer the whole of his interest in Potts Farm and the family business.

Solicitors: James & Charles Doughty Stanley, Washbrough & Co, Bristol.

The Medical College, with the support of the Attorney General, claimed that the union was exclusively charitable. It was submitted that the union was a charity either because it formed an integral part of the education of students, or because its purposes were ancillary.

In his Lordship's judgment the union was not a charity, but it was not a charitable association under the general law, but if the union existed as a charity, it would be charitable for the purpose of the personal benefit conferred on union members. His Lordship found as a fact that the union was not a charity, and did further, the college's educational purposes.

The duty of the argument for the commissioners was the decision of the House of Lords in *R v City of Glasgow Police v McLeod* (1975) 1 All ER 380 that the purpose of providing recreation for the members was non-charitable. In that case, which had been cited in the present case, the commissioners had submitted that one factor to look at the purpose of the union was the fact that the union was not a charity, and did further, the college's educational purposes.

In the end it seemed that the question was, to some extent, a matter of degree. Was the union's predominant object the promotion of the purposes of the Medical College as a school of learning? Or was its object, or one of its objects, the private and personal benefit of those students who were union members?

Looking at the union's origins and its constitution his Lordship concluded that it had no educational purpose, and that the union facilities were a practical necessity in these days if the Medical College was to function efficiently. His Lordship did not suppose that the athletic association was a necessity for the Glasgow police force.

Solicitors: Parker, Garrett & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

Abstract—The purpose of this study was to determine if there were differences in the prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders among different types of workers. The study included 600 male employees from a large manufacturing company who had been employed for at least one year. They were divided into three groups based on their job type: manual laborers, machine operators, and office workers. Data were collected through self-reported questionnaires and medical records. Results showed that manual laborers had the highest prevalence of musculoskeletal disorders, followed by machine operators, while office workers had the lowest prevalence.

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Spectator

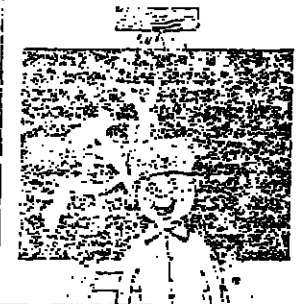
Schools...

Hands up for freedom



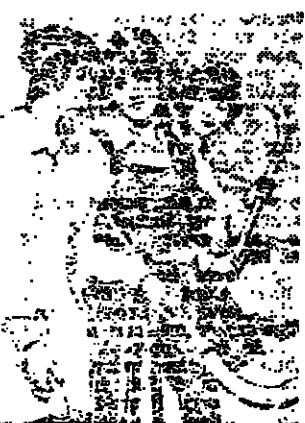
Norman St John Stevas writes about his latest effort to combat the all-comprehensive system - a national petition to the House of Commons

How THEY do it



Rhodes Boyson finds the USSR more open-minded on education than the British Labour Party which, he argues could learn by closer study

The stuff dreams were made of



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NEW BOOKS

Passionate spirit

Findings and Keepings
Analepts for an Autobiography
By Lewis Mumford
(Secker & Warburg, £8)

For close on 60 of his 80 years, Lewis Mumford has been inveighing against the sterility of modern city life, the dehumanising effect of modern technology, and the thoughtless prodigality of the consumer society. Mumford's pleas for the sort of planning which would promote a genuine urban culture made a great impact in the 1930s and 1940s in particular. But only now, when the rapacity of our economic system is becoming more widely recognized, can the clarity of his vision be fully appreciated.

Findings and Keepings is not an autobiography, but a collection of published and unpublished essays, private notes, letters, plus a semi-autobiographical short novel called *The Little Testament* of Bernard Martin, and an epic drama about the building of one of the constructions he most admired, the Brooklyn Bridge, both previously unpublished. Most of this material stems from the period up to 1935, but it is rounded off with his powerful 'Prologue to our Time', published not long ago in the *New Yorker*. The selection is cunningly arranged by theme and date, and—pending the autobiography begun in 1956—gives us valuable insight into a life and mind of great breadth and purposefulness.

Mumford defies pigeon-holing. Various descriptions as a sociologist, authority on town planning, historian, and, simply, writer, are all of the mark, but above all one of the great, and the best of our times. His dislike of the verbal thinking of specialists mirrors his hostility to the mechanical planning of a Corbusier. He is no Utopian; some evil he thinks is inevitable—the problem is 'to distribute the poison in assimilable amounts'. He is above all a wise man, who is always fighting for the rights of others to enjoy a richer and more complete life. It is this passionate spirit which gave his views on town planning their impact, and which gives this book its unity and thrust.

There is an element of implicit self-congratulation in some of these offerings, suggesting a selectivity shrewdly turned to the present times. With some justice he chastises himself at

the age of 24 for being a conceited prig. But what a clever and feeling one. Here he is at 26, in an article on the social and mental degradation of Staten Island:

This devastated strip of beach, these disastrous bungalows, these dismal amusement parks, this dreary youth and the sweethearts he glibbed about: these things and people are not part of a settled, cultivated community; they are the effect of a civilization which is perpetually on the make and therefore on the move.

And even in 1935 there were not, I suspect, many people—certainly not enough—who saw so clearly the profound similarities between Soviet Communism and German Fascism. 'Beneath both movements is a profound disrespect for human life, the autonomy of the personality and the group, and for the basic liberties of civilized existence', he wrote in a letter printed here. He could not forgive Marx for accepting as much of the mechanistic thought of his period and for wanting to change not the technology, but simply the book-keeping.

Two of Mumford's many enthusiasms, embracing this book, are his Master, Sir Patrick Geddes, the brilliant but often maddeningly wayward Scottish polymath (biologist and town planner); and, perhaps, of which he writes bravely. In his concluding essay, Mumford savages the doctrine of progress, the Darwinism that 'embellishes the brute fact of survival with a smug eulogy of the survivors', and the 'mechanistic' thought of his period and for wanting to change not the technology, but simply the book-keeping.

Mumford offers no panacea, but concluded as early as 1930 that 'a wholesale rethinking of the basic of modern thought is needed. By showing him in early manhood, as husband, father, art critic and playwright as well as moral historian, this collection brings our imagination, tenderness and integrity to his own efforts to fulfill this task.

Roger Berthoud

Writing on the wall

Vico and Herder
Two Studies in the History of Ideas
By Isaiah Berlin
(Hogarth, £6)

Herbert Marcuse said that if one could only discover a record of the dreams men had dreamed during a particular age, the spirit of the age would be accurately perceived. The surface of life—the books, wars, speeches, treaties, knightships and assassinations—too often lays traps for the historian. The methods used by the scientist will not do for him. This book (coming as no surprise from the author of *The Divorce between the Sciences and the Humanities*) deals with the genesis of that idea, for it was the relationship between history and the systematic social sciences that Vico and Herder pioneered. Vico (born in 1744, the year in which Herder died) pioneered the assumption that the division between the human sciences was entirely artificial.

Isaiah Berlin's book represents Vico to a modern readership. Sparsely admired (by Coleridge, Thomas Arnold, Joyce, Yeats and

Edmund Wilson for instance), he is today, as Berlin remarks, unreadable and unread:

all his philosophical works, and the *Scienza Nuova* in particular, are an amalgam of sense and nonsense, an ill-assorted mass of ideas, some lucid and arresting, others obscure and trivial, and novel thoughts, cluttered with trivial fragments of a dead scholastic tradition, all jostling each other in a confused and badly ordered and overburdened mind.

Herder is better known as a philosopher and educator. 'He wished', Berlin writes, 'to bring all the sciences of man and of his environment, his origins, his history, into a single whole'. In his many works have in common a concern with the whole process of the history of man and man's self-expression; his influence was enormous—not only on Goethe, but on the Romantics. (1975) the whole course of German literature, and in Eastern Europe.

Vico and Herder originated as two lectures; they fit together as an essay in historical theory because both were primarily concerned with the very nature of history and human culture. They recognized

Keeping it vague

In The Anglo-Arab Labyrinth
The McMahon-Rusain Correspondence and its Interpretations 1914-1939
By Elie Kedourie
(Cambridge, £12.50)

The controversy over the McMahon-Rusain correspondence goes rumbling on, and now Professor Kedourie, in much the fullest study yet published, has managed to stand most of the accepted ideas about it on their heads. He does not believe that the undertakings made by Sir Henry McMahon, the High Commissioner in Egypt, to Hussein, the Sherif of Mecca, in letters exchanged between July 1915 and March 1916, were inconsistent with the subsequent Sykes-Picot Treaty or with the Balfour Declaration. So far from the Arabs being swindled out of their birthright by French and Zionist pressures, and a double-crossing British Government, they came out of the war, he maintains, in a better position than their legitimate claims or practical efforts warranted.

The case is presented with great erudition and a sombre wit. Professor Kedourie is as much at home in Arabic and French as in English. He is a brilliant historical detective, advocate, and hanging judge. Holmes, Birkett and Moriarty rolled into one. Have all the history books got to be rewritten?

The problem is really in two parts—what the letters were supposed to mean by the people who wrote them, and the interpretations that were subsequently put on them—though of course the parts interlock. There were complications of translation and terminology—including the fateful word 'districts'—introduced (by Storrs?) into the letter of October 24 'the... portions of Syria lying to the west of the

districts of Damascus, Hama, Homs and Aleppo cannot be said to be purely Arab...'

and above all of intention. But at the time real intentions were liable to be suppressed or distorted.

It certainly appears that the British end aimed at keeping commitments vague. 'On our part', McMahon wrote the Viceroy to explain his October 24 letter, 'it is at present largely a matter of words... We must use persuasive terms and avoid begging over commitments. It is also true that Hussein was more interested in questions of kingship and the Caliphate than boundaries, that neither he nor the British Government were in 1915 especially occupied about the future fate of Palestine, and that in any case the correspondence was not a treaty.'

All the same, just because some of the letters had an apparent precision, and because of the secrecy which surrounded them after the war (the text was not published as a White Paper until 1929, a result of Arab demands at the St. James's Palestine conference), the Arabs were given legitimate grounds for supposing that there was something shady to be hid from them.

Professor Kedourie reserves his strongest censure for those officials at the Foreign and Colonial Offices who, as he sees it, gave encouragement to this view by maintaining a feeling of guilt, brought about by a study of their files less thorough than his own. He is contemptuous of their failure to live up to their imperial heritage. Perhaps he does less than justice to the difficulties of policy making in wartime. Subsequent wars have shown that there was a way of avoiding misunderstandings between belligerent governments and resistance movements. There are probably plenty of McMahon-Rusain correspondences hatching in Africa and Asia even now.

E. C. Hodgkin

Crime

The Bedside Book of Great Detective Stories

Edited by Herbert van Thal
(Arthur Barker, £4.25)

It is something of a mystery to why the crime short story appears to be in such poor esteem. Once, of course, it was the leading strain and well some 20 years ago it held its own. But now, as Julian Symonds points out in his introduction to this volume, there is no magazine in this country that publishes such stories regularly. And, while he praises the occasional newspaper competition such as that by *The Times*, he says, truly, that the efforts cannot alone revive the art.

We lose by its absence. There are things the short story can do well that the novel cannot. Future analysis (E. C. Bentley's story here is not a bad example), for instance, may

well become tedious at book length but can thoroughly intrigue over 20 pages. Or, the really ingenious puzzle can be a rewarding pleasure, as is Christiana Brand's. A nearly ironic twist, as in Mr Symonds' own contribution, needs to be almost unattainably powerful to succeed at greater length. Humour, too, probably comes off best when not over-extended (I could have wished it included in this volume, perhaps one of Basil Thomson's Mr Pepper stories) as does the story based on some speciality, cryptography here in R. Austin Freeman's 'The Moabite Cipher'.

So, if all these stories do not satisfy a reader's taste for a 'great'—though the word is not to be used—length, they are well worth a look. You can slice the cake, as it were, vertically, by treating each medium separately: sculpture, bronzes, terracottas, painting, and so on. This method was adopted with conspicuous success by Miss Richter in her first edition, *Handbook of Greek Art*. Or you can slice the cake horizontally, by treating all the arts together, period by period. This is a much more difficult approach, but if well done can be extremely effective.

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Sandwiched between a prologue concerned with Prehistoric art and an epilogue concerned with Roman art, the rest of the book deals in seven sections, with the art of the

seventh to the first century BC.

The minor arts are somewhat neglected, but sculpture and painting (which also tends to be neglected) are treated as virtually all large-scale painting has perished) have never been treated more sympathetically. Every generation needs a new assessment of ancient art, for tastes change and excavation enlarges our horizons. This assessment will more than satisfy the coming generation; laymen as well as scholars, for all professional gobbledegook has been avoided.

So much for the text. The plates are another matter. The material for grave concern. Muddy, in texture, sometimes out of focus, savagely cropped at top and bottom, they do little to present the beauty of Greek art to those who do not know the originals. And in many cases the publishers have committed the sin against the archaeologist. Holy Ghost: they have painted out the backgrounds. For £25 we have a right, and the author has a right, to expect something better.

Reynold Higgins

No gobbledegook

A History of Greek Art
By Martin Robertson
(Cambridge, 2 Vols, £25 the set)

This is a book which lovers of Greek art have been impatiently waiting for; and, so far as the text is concerned, they will not be disappointed. There are two ways of tackling a subject like this. You can slice the cake, as it were, vertically, by treating each medium separately: sculpture, bronzes, terracottas, painting, and so on. This method was adopted with conspicuous success by Miss Richter in her first edition, *Handbook of Greek Art*. Or you can slice the cake horizontally, by treating all the arts together, period by period. This is a much more difficult approach, but if well done can be extremely effective.

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Reynold Higgins

Fiction

The Cat's Eye
By Monica Furlong
(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £3.50)

Julia
By Peter Straub
(Cape, £2.95)

A Hero in His Time
By Arthur A. Cohen
(Secker & Warburg, £3.50)

When I find a writer tiptoeing across descriptive areas of either mystical or sexual experience I'm almost sick with nervous apprehension. One expects too much of these overstrained ecstatic leaps and spirals of credulity.

I don't think it's insulting to say that it's the tension this feat of skill generates which makes Monica Furlong's first novel so compelling. She has tried to express what the mystical eye perceives—a 'projection' as she describes it—the capacity to see some people as more real, less mortal, larger than most. In themselves, her plot and characters possess a relatively little tension. If anything, they exude languor, though languor may be a necessary pre-condition if the 'cat's eye' is to function at its vivid best.

A convalescent air attaches itself to all the figures, not just the genuine convalescent, the central character Bridget Kelly, whose recent miscarriage has made her marriage seem more than ever a dry and useless arrangement. A Catholic, she is forced to contemplate divorce, while she recuperates in Cornwall with the Withersham family, all of whom seem to me to display a stricken quality. Nell, the beautiful psychoanalyst, her librium and whisky-blinded husband Sydney, their bloated, inert daughter Clara, the

inexplicably related Paulinus, a real golden god of a boy, and even Iro, their charming child prodigy. They move slowly against the summer seascapes and although Miss Furlong is successful in suggesting they're awaiting some unknown event, their passivity is a handicap in making them carry the ultimate weight of event she has devised for them. Even Paulinus who is intended to radiate fierce sensual energy (whose evenness, is, rather unhappily, likened to 'golden rain') is, as Bridget Kelly herself concedes at length, 'a bit of a dud' really.

But Iro is the most important person and here, Miss Furlong has created a bright and moving creature, a child whose innocence has to be sacrificed for all that. The shape of many elements of the story achieve a single focus—Bridget's attempt to reconcile divorce and her faith, her transference from invalid to nurse and her sense that the Withershams represent a past, equally capable of a finer loving and the cruellest of sexual betrayals. Iro's fate—which I can't reveal without spoiling the story—brings the Eleusian Mysteries and the celebration of Christianity together in a single, timelessly recurring experience.

Frankly, I think it's a pity that evil, the counterpoise, has to be introduced at the end of the book in the shape of Bridget's fanatic IRA brother. Not because it dispels the peace of the story, because it unbalances the construction. Still, an occasional faltering is made far less pronounced than it might be by the covering strength of the prose which flows with great intensity and simplicity and ultimately directs the mystical content of the book with considerable power.

Interestingly, Peter Straub uses a child to personify evil in his book *Julia*. Evil of a horrifying kind, and, literally, haunting kind. Julia, a young girl, whose own daughter has been killed by the carefully unexplained an accident, tries to free herself from

both mental breakdown and a pursuing husband by setting herself up in a house that proves to harbour the avenging spirit of another child. The seances, murder and general nastiness which follow are all much better written than is common in a book of this kind and for that reason, it's highly readable. But for all Peter Straub's cunning complications, the conclusion is predictable and the reaching of it largely implausible.

A Hero in His Time is the story of a Russian Jewish poet (of a bleakly medieval kind) who is startled and a little afraid to find himself included in a delegation to New York where, he is instructed, he must read one specially composed poem amongst his own collection.

Arthur Cohen writes with a stiffness that makes the book appear to be a translation from the Russian which of course it isn't. Perhaps this is deliberate. Certainly, the impression of Russian life (as far as one is at all competent to judge) is completely convincing and Yuri Maximovich Isakovsky's reduction of himself to the inconspicuous conveys oppression more subtly than overt violence. His severance of relationships with all but his mongrel dog, his routine job, his careful choice and annotation of books should his two rooms ever be searched all have done-coloured authenticity. And yet the man himself largely escapes—possibly because that is what he is—asiduously tries to do. Escape himself that is. Given the chance to defect, he remains as anxious as ever to avoid being so troublesome. But in one small act he remains true.

Of all the selves he tries to conceal he will not forsake the role of poet (undistinguished though he knows himself to be), nor his belief that through the poet a god speaks out of the earth. Without betraying his government's order, he improves the language of the code poem he is to read in public. It is enough.

Jacky Gillott

Next July we collide

with Mars

The Sirius Mystery
By Robert K. G.
Temple
(Sidgwick & Jackson, £5.95)

The Dogon, a remote African tribe, located somewhere near Timbuktu, has its ancient and secret religious tradition of the worship of a star Sirius. The source of the tribe's considerable knowledge of this our brightest star is the visitation, over three thousand years ago, of amphibious beings from the Sirius system.

So far, just another chariot of the Bermuda polygon. However, it turns out that the Dogon's object of veneration is not the star Sirius itself but rather one of the foci of the elliptical orbit of a tiny star which they call Po Tolo (small-grain star) and which travels around Sirius. The star, the Dogon say, although tiny and invisible, is yet immensely heavy. Its weight is 'that of all the seeds of all the iron on earth', but its size is that of 'a stretched ox-skin or a mortar'. Its orbital period is 'twice in a hundred years'.

Modern astronomy knows that Sirius has a companion, Sirius B, which is a White Dwarf, is tiny, invisible except through a powerful telescope, and being just as heavy as a normal star is incredibly dense (a matchbox full of the stuff would weigh 50 tons). It was photographed for the first time in 1970, using sophisticated techniques. Its orbital period has recently been established as 49.9 years.

Robert Temple's book is indeed different from the run-of-the-mill 'planetary visitation' quasi-theories. It is well, very well, documented; for instance, the original French anthropological report on the Dogon and their knowledge of the Sirius system is in complete translation. The author traces the tribe's beliefs back, via migration, to the Egyptians who are known to have worshipped Sirius. Mythology is examined for clues as to how the knowledge was brought to earth in the first place. Pictures of amphibious creatures are shown which have fishes' heads and tails as well as the usual set of hands and feet. Just about every feature, including the Argonauts and Noah's Ark, is woven into the argument. The mixture is therefore a curious one consisting of about equal parts of astronomy, anthropology and mythology with a dash of science fiction and peppered with references. It is tough going in parts; not the sort of thing to read propped up against the marmalade.

In the end, slightly dazed by so much annotation, one has to come to a conclusion about it. It seems to me that there are three things to be said to Mr Temple: he does leave the reader the choice, and bends over backwards to present possible explanations. First, perhaps there is a rational explanation in the light of our present knowledge. For instance, could

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Reviews next

Aftermath of the New Hampshire presidential primary

Personality shines through, but neither party yet has a candidate for all the people

The American presidential election is still wide open with President Ford relieved at having scrambled over the first hurdle, and Mr Jimmy Carter having opened up a gap over his Democratic rivals—as the runners come out of New Hampshire and head for the next 29 primaries.

The striking thing about this traditional opener to election year is the performance of the non-Washington contestants, California's former Republican governor, Mr Ronald Reagan, and Mr Jimmy Carter, ex-governor of Georgia. A few months ago both were laughed out of consideration in serious political discussion, yet Mr Reagan lost to Mr Ford in New Hampshire by only about 1 per cent of the popular vote and Mr Carter was backed by 30 per cent of the Democratic electorate.

Both appear to have done well through sheer force of personality and through the anti-Washington feeling among voters detected in some opinion polls. But it should not be forgotten that both have expended much effort and money on organization.

Mr Ford, too, widely ridiculed at the turn of the year as a nice bumbler, has made something of a comeback, because at the last minute he turned the tables on Mr Reagan, who was previously seen as having jumped far ahead and was expected to humiliate the President.

Still, it will be a tooth-and-

nailed battle, for after the Florida primary in two weeks' time the advantage may well swing to Mr Reagan—while the President's next good chance will come in Illinois. That is the pattern the primaries are going to follow. But at least Mr Ford can claim to have won his first election outside his former home congressional district in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

If the struggle is going to be divisive for Republicans, it will be equally so for the Democrats. In New Hampshire, Mr Carter was accorded the moderate to conservative Democratic vote. Next week in Massachusetts he will be facing stern challenges from two men entering the lists, Governor George Wallace and Senator Henry Jackson. His success so far has come from his placing himself ahead of any of the "liberals", and it suggests that the keenest element among Democratic voters is to get away from McGovernism—as well as the idea of backing a new face.

What is being called the "sub-prime" among liberal Democrats in New Hampshire was won by Mr Morris Udall, who came a respectable second to Mr Carter and ahead of Senator Birch Bayh. If Mr Udall does well in Massachusetts he may become the rallying candidate for the "left" of the party.

Mr Carter is a disconcerting candidate to the professionals. The brilliant smile that captivates some is, if watched



Mr Carter (left) and Mr Reagan:

They have the knack of remaining likeable and it has been said that they both have a way of 'fondling the electorate'

closely, seen to light up at quite the wrong phrase, flashing like a mistimed neon sign. He talks of God, and his style reflects the southern Baptist lay preacher that he still is.

He looks passably like John Kennedy, but the style is quite different—a mumbled Georgia



drawl that makes him sound like all things to all people. If he is accused of inconsistencies he disarmingly answers: "We'll be interestingly specific as we go along". He has a keen businessman's and engineer's brain—he was once a senior assistant to Admiral Rickover

in the navy's nuclear submarine project.

His knack—and it is Mr Reagan's, too—is to remain likeable in his campaign approach. He dares preach love rather than recommitment, and though Mr Reagan would not do that, it has been said per-

ceptively of both men that they have a way of "fondling the electorate".

But it cannot be denied that these first results show that neither party yet has a candidate to appeal across the board—indeed that neither Republicans nor Democrats, who become national parties only on these occasions every four years, any longer possess a united base of voters. Perhaps there should be a realignment of parties, but it will not happen for these elections.

One man who may think he can appeal across the board, and who will be watching the returns very closely, is Mr Robert Humphrey, the senior Democrat and avowed non-candidate. More than 3,000 New Hampshire Democrats wrote his name on their ballot papers, and he did very well in preliminary caucuses in his home state of Minnesota.

Mr Humphrey made a slight, perhaps significant change of prediction last week. He had been saying all along he thought that the primaries would produce the candidate, other words that the possibility that a deadlocked party would turn to him as compromise. Now he has told newspapermen he thinks the primaries will fail to produce a clear-cut winner. It may be a long time coming, but perhaps we should stand by for Senator Humphrey's entry into the race.

Fred Emery

Ronald Butt

The gap between Common Law and morality

In the next week or two, the Law Commission's report on conspiracy and criminal law reform is due for publication. This covers not only the law in respect of such offences as treason but also the law as it relates to outraging public decency and corrupting public morals. This aspect of the report flows from the Law Commission's working paper No. 57, published for public discussion at the end of 1974, which made proposals for abolishing conspiracy offences in respect of "moral and decency" and for replacing them with statutory offences in certain cases.

The Law Commission, however, went further than advocating the abolition of the law of conspiracy as such. It also recommended the abolition of the substantive Common Law offences to which the law on conspiracy in this area relates—notably, the offences of corrupting public morals, outraging public decency, indecent exposure, and the like. The argument was that such offences were either covered by other specific enactments, such as the Obscene Publications Act, or could be prohibited by new statute law to cover, for example, indecent exposure. It was also proposed that the Obscene Publications Act should be brought into line with the new statutory law on indecent exposure—namely, that it should be replaced by a new statute law to cover, for example, indecent exposure. It was also proposed that the Obscene Publications Act should be brought into line with the new statutory law on indecent exposure—namely, that it should be replaced by a new statute law to cover, for example, indecent exposure.

However, what the Law Commission's original working paper left out of account was the fact that if the Common Law offences in this area were completely abolished, the ordinary cinema would not be protected from abuse by any Act at all. (The British Board of Film Censors is, of course, a non-statutory body appointed by the Home Secretary.) In other words, the public screen would be left to the mercy of the showing of any material, however obscene, violent, cruel or bestial.

This legal gap, once it was pointed out, was something the Law Commission has had to take into account. In its final report, it will be proposed that the cinema should be brought under the formula of the Obscene Publications Act of 1959, which defines obscenity as that which, taken as a whole, "tends to deprave and corrupt". It would also allow the cinema the defence that, even so, nothing would be shown which it could be proved to be "for the public good" (the public good being defined as the grounds of science, literature, art or learning but under the limitless category of "other objects of public concern"). It is, of course, under this escape clause that articles which nobody claims are anything but pornographic have been successfully defended by the testimony of "expert" witnesses as being for somebody's good.

A further recommendation that the Law Commission seems to have in mind for the cinema is a restriction which does not even exist in the Obscene Publications Act, but which is in the Theatres Act of 1968. This is that no prosecution can be made except by consent of the Attorney General. Thus the private citizen would be unable to bring a prosecution if the Attorney General refused consent. Additionally, the substantive offence of indecent exposure, which has recently been ruled by the Lord Chief Justice to be properly applicable to all film exhibitions, would go also.

In other words, the Law Commission is likely to recommend (and Mr Roy Jenkins has let it be known that he intends to legislate on their proposals) the application of a weakened "deprave-and-corrupt" and "public good" formula at the very time when the scope for abusing this to the detriment of the 1959 Act has recently been flagrantly revealed. What is more, the cinema to which this riddled statute would be applied, is a medium much more vulnerable to abuse for obscene purposes than the written word or the use of still photography. Can

anybody believe that this is what the general public, if consulted, would want?

It is therefore important that this recommendation should not go by on the nod. Indeed, the Law Commission's proposals reinforce the case for the politicians to think again about the law as a whole in this area, if they wish to protect the public from the consequences of the systematic addition of some of its citizens by the cynical escalation in violence of the material produced.

It will, of course, be said that to strengthen the law for its original purpose is censoring the ultimate contemporary human world. It is an argument we must not ignore; we already have censorship under the Race Relations and Equal Opportunities legislation and (in respect of stirring up racial hatred) under the "Race Relations" regulations. There is no doubt that we have the censor's encouragement of obscenity. We partially censor tobacco advertising. It is only a question of what you censor and what you do not censor (hard or soft, according to an increasingly meaningless classification) should be exempt.

D. H. Lawrence certainly did not think so. "Even I," he wrote in *Sex, Literature and Censorship*, "would censor obscene pornography, rightly or wrongly. It would be very difficult. . . . You can recognize it by the insult it offers, invariably to sex and to the human spirit. Pornography is the attempt to insult sex, to do dirt on it, to make it uncleanable." In these words, perhaps, we have the clue to the shape that law reforms in this field can best take.

What is wrong now is the use of the "tendency to deprave and corrupt" formula which, by its nature, is easily established in a relationship between a "cause" and "an effect" which may not yet have happened, and the "public good" escape clause which means what any dedicated witness claims that it means. It is tempting to see the answer in the replacement of these formulae by specifying the acts of obscenity and inhumanity which ought to be prohibited. But there seem to me to be two serious objections to this.

The first is that it could lead to argument about whether or not that prohibited thing was in fact being depicted; thus the law might easily be brought into ridicule. The second is that it could only be applied to pictures, and not to verbal descriptions. It would be wrong and absurd to try to apply it to writing about subjects which are plainly able to be written about in "decent" (i.e., scientifically or artistically) as well as obscenely.

A far more commonsense approach would be to agree with Lawrence that there is no difficulty for most of us in knowing what is pornographic, and simply legislate against what is offensive to decent standards of decency without recourse to attempted legal definitions. This is what the Acts do which govern the Post Office and the Customs. To follow Lawrence's lead, "the standards of decency" which the Post Office know pornography when they see it and they act accordingly. This is perhaps the best model for the "public moral" law as a whole. It would involve the repeal of the existing law on obscenity, and the substitution of a single test of obscenity in terms of whether or not any questioned item is offensive to contemporary standards of decency as interpreted by a jury, unfettered by "expert" assertions.

This would give adequate scope for the variations in acceptability which naturally occur from time to time and between generations. A genuinely random jury is the best available witness to public standards, and the common law is an admirably flexible instrument. There is no case for quietly slipping the abolition of these common law offences as such into measures to deal with conspiracy. Rather, the reverse. This is a case where the common law is preferable to statute.

Plugging the loopholes that threaten animal survival

The Government's Endangered Species (Import and Export) Bill receives its second reading in the House of Lords today. Sir Peter Scott, chairman of the World Wildlife Fund, discusses how effective these long-awaited trade controls will be.

Wild orchids imported from Costa Rica, stuffed birds from the Canary Islands, the smuggling of black-shouldered kites from Thailand, the export of hundreds of thousands of spur-thighed tortoises from Morocco, and the import of corals, sea urchins and leopard-skin wallers, are all part of a vast and complex international trade in wild animals, plants, and products made from their dead parts.

Their collection for international trade is one of the "major factors affecting the survival chances of many species. For some it is the only reason why they rate a red sheet in the Red Data Book of endangered species published by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. It was the effect of trade on the status of so many wild animals and plants, and the initiative of IUCN that led to a meeting in Washington in March, 1973, when representatives from 80 countries came together to formulate an international policy for controlling this traffic.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora, the result and it listed over 600 mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and molluscs and several thousand plants, the trade in which would be controlled. The Convention came into force on July 1, 1975, when 109 countries had ratified it and since then the number of ratifying countries has risen to 23.

Three years after the Washington meeting, the British Government implemented the Convention (from January 1 this year) but cannot formally ratify it until our 16 Dependent Territories—which include Hong Kong, one of the world's biggest animal trade centres—are in a position to ratify with us. The British Government has declared its intention of ratifying the Convention in time to attend the first important meeting of "contracting parties" towards the end of this year when countries that have so far ratified will discuss the



The crocodile: in danger.

problems they have faced in making the trade controls work.

Some of the difficulties they are having will be similar to those which the Government is now discussing with the new Scientific Authority and informally with conservation bodies, including the World Wildlife Fund. The Convention requires that all "part and derivatives" of threatened species on the schedules should be controlled as completely as the live specimens are, but the proposed qualifying phrase "readily recognizable" allows perhaps too free an interpretation of this clause. If the pelts of La Plata and the Cameroon clawless otters, highly threatened by the demand for their fur, are indistinguishable from the pelts of more common otters, trade will continue in all other skins, which it properly should not. The case is strong for stopping entirely the trade in all other skins, in order to protect the highly threatened species. This principle has been applied successfully to plants and the trade in all wild orchids and cycas which will now be controlled and monitored.

Made-up goods using the skins and hides of many threatened species can still be sold freely in this country. The new controls take effect at the point of import and because a customs official may have difficulty in deciding whether



The otter: threatened.

a consignment of key fobs or belts are made from real crocodile skin, these goods will continue to come into the country; once through customs their sale is legal in spite of the fact that all but one member of the crocodile family is in danger of extinction, and that the trade is controlled in live specimens and raw hides.

The basis for the Convention is that controls are designed to affect only those Red Data Book species threatened by trade, and not if their survival is in the balance for other reasons. It may be that at the forthcoming international meeting it is felt by some that it is the possibility of all Red Data Book species (something under a thousand animals) coming under the Convention controls will be discussed. It is argued that any rare species could become more threatened, by trade, if there was a sudden upsurge of interest in it, for example, as an exotic pet, or because its plumage becomes popular for fishing flies, or its teeth fashionable for earrings. It would obviously be difficult to apply the same principle to plants, bearing in mind that perhaps 20,000 flowering plants are rare enough to qualify for the Red Data Book at present. It is felt by some that it is the responsibility of governments in countries which export rare wildlife, to legislate, rather than for countries like Britain to stop the imports. This view is unrealistic. Hundreds of miles boundaries of many countries, sometimes running through tropical forest, and few guard systems could patrol such areas effectively.

The Convention was designed to improve the status with the help of trade controls of threatened animals and plants in the wild. Sacrifices are going to have to be made by the trade in order to meet the terms and spirit of the Convention; painful implementation is impossible. Too many concessions to trades and businesses claiming to depend in part on the import of, say, live box constrictors, lizards, snakes, and the like, and the Convention would be an invaluable prop to our fragile economy, will result in pressure remaining, and probably intensifying on wild animals and plants urgently needing conservation now.

Sir Peter Scott

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We must not welsh on Nato's early warning system

Preference for a British system that exists only on paper could harm the West

1975 for AWACS for the defence of North America. The first aircraft will go into service in November this year.

The Nato office is seeking the solution to such problems as what capabilities are needed, and thus the complexity of the system. The cost will depend upon their answers. Does Nato need more than just early warning? What should be the coverage of the system? Should it be capable of fulfilling a role with respect to the forward zones in Europe, to the continental defence of the United States, or to maritime surveillance? Or to all at the same time? How many orbits would be needed, and thus how many aircraft? The Nato planners are working against the clock to balance the coverage against sophistication, and the reserve aircraft and backing needed.

In the meantime the Nato countries are bracing themselves against the shock. The United Kingdom has said it is "prepared to pay a reasonable share of the cost of an airborne early warning system". Were Britain not to do so, and back on its commitment, there can be little doubt that the whole programme would collapse. Is Defence Minister Mr Mason in a paying mood?

Some estimates as to the cost of AWACS are available. The United States Department of Defence in March last year estimated that for the purchase of 36 aircraft, based on Nato specifications (which would be more complex than those necessary for the American system) the cost would be between £24m and £27m an aircraft. A total for the programme of

approximately £900m—a sum not far short of the annual defence expenditure of Holland.

How could such an expenditure be financed? Several methods have been suggested. It might be that a system similar to the one which paid for NADGE—the Nato high level warning system—will eventually be adopted. A special voluntary fund between them, along infrastructure lines, with firms from contributing countries participating in production and offset work, according to the extent of their government's participation. Ownership of the aircraft might be vested in Nato.

The United States appears willing to contribute 25 per cent. This would lead Canada and the European countries to contribute 15 per cent each. If this sum were to be divided on a percentage basis according to gross national product among the Nato nations (but leaving out France, Greece and Iceland) the British share would be about £15m, or 17 per cent of the total cost. Were France to take part, and it is not impossible that she might do so, then costs would be correspondingly reduced.

The Labour Government may be tempted to flirt with an AEW (Airborne Early Warning) system, but it is not clear if it is in favour of a British system—that exists on paper only—the consequences for the Alliance would be most serious. The Germans would be unlikely to buy British in any event, and this escape clause, the articles which nobody claims are anything but pornographic have been successfully defended by the testimony of "expert" witnesses as being for somebody's good.

Julian Critchley

The author is the Conservative MP for Aldershot, and chairman of the defence committee of the Western European Union Assembly.

The Times Diary

Carnage among the gastronomes

Our economic difficulties have been making hay of Britain's fine restaurants. Last year's well-publicised closures at the top of the trade were not the only disasters, according to the new *Good Food Guide*, published yesterday.

The book cuts the number of distinctions awarded by a third and topples many proud reputations by banishing famous establishments from its pages entirely. In London the roll-call of eminent casualties includes the exclusive Mirabelle, Robert Carter's restaurant in Islington; the White Tower, where Princess Margaret's set made famous in the fifties; and the Roux brothers' City branch, Le Poulbot.

"Some fine restaurants have been swept away by the financial downpour," says the *Guide's* editor, Christopher Driver. "Others have just been unable in the present economic climate to keep up the standards and kind of style on which they were founded. The trouble with high style is that when it falls away there is nothing left."

Not all the restaurants are so

pessimistic about the prospects. At the White Tower, the manageress said that she really had no time to discuss the implications of their omission: "I'm busy on the other line turning away people who want tables, because we are full for days ahead."

Bernard Walsh of Wheeler's, the chain whose main showpiece in Old Compton Street is another victim of the purge, said: "They may be right. I'm not going to say they are wrong. But when we serve 10,000 à la carte meals in an average week in London, 2,000 in that restaurant, they cannot all be right can they? We try our very hardest and what else can we do?"

The degradations are not confined to London. The Bell at Aston Clinton, until recently listed with distinction, is struck from the *Guide* "with regret" after having been listed for 24 years, and the hapless Carrier's country seat, Hintonham Hall in Suffolk, loses its distinction for cooking.

Driver says there is no need to fear that we will not be able to eat out in future. It is just, he suggests, that to maintain

acceptable standards more restaurateurs should enlist the help of amateur gardeners providing fresh vegetables, or contract out the cooking of savoury and dessert to caterers who might do it better than expensively trained chefs.

There is a nice consolation for the Tate Gallery after their recent troubles, though. Their restaurant received an award for the quality of its wine list. Perhaps they could exhibit it in place of those troublesome bricks.

Neo-colonial John Grosz has been visiting Cuba at the invitation of the cigar industry. He reports how the Communist regime has not stifled all manifestations of the former decadence of the Caribbean holiday playground.

The relics of American imperialism remain. The Hilton hotel, where I am staying, has been renamed the Havana Libre. The Havana Riviera hotel, built by George Raft shortly before the overthrow of the Batista regime, still dispenses luxury on the grand scale. The Tropicana has lost its gambling tables but offers an excellent cabaret. So do the Nacional and the Capri. At the Capri, a black woman with platinum blonde hair sang some very capitalistic songs. "Voulez-vous coucher avec moi ce soir" was her motto—the song which the BBC banned from the air in Pinar del Rio was not quite so profes-



The National Gallery's latest "Painting in Focus" project centres on *The Rokeby Venus* by Velázquez (detail above). In mourning it Alton Brown, the deputy keeper of the gallery, has discovered that Velázquez, like Brahm, had a model recline in front of a mirror (photo below) in the identical position to the Spanish beauty, and found that what the artist would see in the mirror would be not her face but her lower abdomen.



sional. The costumes, and for that matter the artists, looked as though they were rejects from Caesar's Palace in the early fifties. The girls of the chorus were so nervous that they tripped over one another, and the spotlight meant for a

seat once, for the little knobs on the end remain. But the seat itself has been removed, as have those in the other rooms of the hotel. Even the lavatory in the Viceroy lounge at Havana airport did not possess a seat. I have to discover what they do with them.

Red, I think

Cambridge beat Oxford yesterday in the annual Varsity Match as decisively as they usually do over the Tideway, but in liquid more treacherous than the muddy Thames. The 23rd wine tasting march was contested in London, with teams from the wine and food societies of the universities being examined blind, in every metaphorical connotation of that epithet.

Two Chinese brothers sided for the opposing teams: Raymond and Peterhouse, and Kingston. Raymond, from Hong Kong, not Thailand, depriving the judges of a joke about old school Thai. But, since Raymond was a late substitute, they allowed an opportunity that was not missed for bibulous byplay about bove in Liu of rice wine.

Ted Hale, chairman of the adjudicators, said: "It is remarkable for a group of people of this age to score so highly in such a stiff examination. We tried the wines out before on professionals in the trade, and nobody did as well." Winners and losers retired to continue their education and practise for next year.

Saint Lloyd George knew my alleged father...



Night riders

The craze for cycling among the middle classes is leading to the growth in the manufacture of cycling accessories. Only last weekend I invented the first bike radio, to enable me to listen to *Gardeners' Question Time* while riding to work on Sundays.

Yesterday Tony Lockwood, a bicycle manufacturer, intro-

duced some devices to make cycling safer at night. At a press conference, he turned on the lights, issued warnings with torches and invited them to see the visibility of a bicycle rider by a young woman in reflective clothing with "See Cyclist 76" written across her back.

According to Lockwood, night-time cyclists are in greater danger when they are side-ways-on to the headlights of oncoming traffic. The front and rear lights of the cycle are invisible and the rider is not wearing a reflective cap. A few patches of reflective tape on the side of the cycle frame, and a more patches on the rider's clothing, help visibility.

Three hundred cyclists were killed every year, many of them at night. Lockwood's idea is available in fashionable colours, avoiding the need for reflective clothing. He is wearing his new reflective orange stripes all over his clothes.

A three-man Communist Party delegation to the twenty-fifth Soviet Party Congress entered the VIP lounge at Moscow's international airport and practically burst into United States Ambassador Walter Stoessel. After an instant of embarrassment there were no handshakes. Stoessel was there to meet his wife and daughter who arrived from New York on the same flight.

PHS

Constable

LORD DAVID CECIL

Library looking-glass: an anthology

'A showcase which brilliantly illuminates its specimens' John Fuller, *New Statesman*

'The value of this anthology depends... on the sureness of the taste displayed in both the quotations and the comments upon them' Raymond Mortimer, *Sunday Times*

'I have never come across a personal anthology of greater charm and interest' Lord Lambton, *TLS*

'I found myself reading it compulsively right through, like an autobiography' Antonia Fraser, *Evening Standard* (2nd impression now available, £1.10)

CYRIL CONNOLLY

A romantic friendship: letters to Noel Blakiston

'These are marvellous letters... any reader who knew nothing of Connolly's later career would surely suspect that he was reading the work of some famous and highly individual creative artist, perhaps even a major poet' Philip Toynbee, *Observer*

'Marvellously fresh descriptions of places abroad and brilliant perceptions about poets of the past and people he met' John Lehmann, *Sunday Telegraph*

'What these letters show from first to last is the continuous maturing of an intelligence rarely encountered in a young undergraduate' Alastair Forbes, *TLS* (£1.10)

EDITH WHARTON

a biography by R.W.B. Lewis

'The most notable achievement of Professor Lewis's biography is the way in which he has recreated the atmosphere of Edith Wharton's world. He is a brilliant social historian...' Lord Clark, *TLS*

'Succeeds far better than most contemporary biographies in suggesting that human life is in sober fact, as catastrophic and intense as it is represented in great works of art' Rebecca West, *Sunday Telegraph*

'Will surely draw new readers, and redirect old ones, to one of the brightest stars in the American literary firmament' Hilary Spurling, *New Statesman* (£6.50)

Constable



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 25: General Sir Harry Tuzo had the honour of being received by The Queen this morning upon relinquishing his appointment as Commander-in-Chief, British Army of the Rhine.

Her Majesty this evening honoured with Her presence a performance of *The Gondoliers* by the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company at Sadler's Wells Theatre.

The Queen was received upon arrival at the Royal Victoria Hospital (Council: D. J. Davies) and the General Manager of the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company (Mr P. Lyons) at the Victoria Hospital.

The Countess of Arlberg, Lieutenant-Colonel the Right Hon. Sir Martin Charteris and Major Robin Brooke were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the British Kinematograph Sound and Television Society, was present this evening at a Reception given by the Society at Grosvenor House.

Royal Highnesses who received upon arrival the President (Mr Harry Maule) was in attendance.

Major Charles Fenwick was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Lieutenant-Colonel the Right Hon. Sir Martin Charteris and Major Robin Brooke were in attendance.

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Dr Stockwood attacks 'obscene' profiteering

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Bishop of Southwark, Dr Stockwood, called for a 'total ban' on the sale of 'obscene' and 'disgraceful' things in our shops and markets when he spoke in the General Synod of the Church of England yesterday.

He bitterly reproached businessmen who take the gold in their hands, or give themselves large rises in salary.

Dr Stockwood, who made a controversial attack on the local clergyman's withdrawal of his children from local state schools, Dr Stockwood declared: "What is not good enough for the person is not good enough for any of his parishioners."

The Church of England, he said, was identified in the minds of people as representing only the cause of society. "The fact we do not really understand their position. These are the people who are, by and large, not represented in

schools in his south London diocese where there were a hundred changes of staff a year and where absenteeism among pupils was so shocking to disclose in public.

He had found one house occupied by 19 families, and asked: "How can we call this a family?"

"If you and I had been reared in those circumstances how many of us would be sitting here now, this morning in Westminster, pontificating on the state of the nation?" he asked.

In many parishes the local clergyman has withdrawn his children from local state schools. Dr Stockwood declared: "What is not good enough for the person is not good enough for any of his parishioners."

The Church of England, he said, was identified in the minds of people as representing only the cause of society. "The fact we do not really understand their position. These are the people who are, by and large, not represented in

this hall this morning, who are very rarely seen in our churches. As far as I am aware the Roman Catholic Church is the only church that manages to catch some of them."

The synod was debating a report on the state of the nation by Canon David Edwards, of West-lesbury, who said that the Bishop of Worcester, the Right Rev Robert Woods, said there were certain social and political objectives which could unite all Christians: the conservation of resources, the priorities of education, the disciplines that governed the economy, more equitable distribution of rewards, the responsibilities and rights of organized labour.

Investment growth in the context of a new world economic order, and care for the causes and victims of the present system.

"If we seek a just society we cannot scruple about pain or sacrifice; that is the very essence of Christianity," he said. "As a church we have to unite our major objectives to provide stability and continuity." The Archbishop of York, the

Most Rev Stuart Blanch, drew attention to the lack of moral education and recalled how Winston Churchill during the war had been galvanised by the present political situation.

It was making a bit much of political leaders to manage the social and economic situation, and at the same time to make their presence felt for good in every part of the land.

The appeal to the nation last October had shown the response that Christianity remained the ideal in many people's minds.

The Church was in a unique position in society to assume moral leadership, yet it had too often simply reacted to events, usually in a negative way. "The worker joins the queue for the dole," he said. "We had constantly to defend ourselves from the kind of obscenity he said."

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OBITUARY
PROF DIETRICH KÜCHEMANN

Research in aerodynamics

Professor Dietrich Küchemann, CBE, Dr rer nat, FRSE, FRAE, died on February 23 at the age of 64. He was Head of the Aerodynamics Department at the Royal Aircraft Establishment from 1966 to 1971 and was Visiting Professor at Imperial College, London.

Dietrich Küchemann was born in Göttingen in 1911 and educated at Göttingen and Munich Universities. He was involved in aerodynamic research at the Aerodynamisches Versuchsanstalt at Göttingen from 1936 to 1946. At the outbreak of the war he came to Britain to the Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough where he was consultant to the Aerodynamics Department from 1946.

At the RAE his work was in the sphere of the aerodynamics of propulsion and the design of supersonic aircraft, and in 1948 he was awarded the Edward Bask Memorial Prize for his paper, *Methods of Reducing the Transonic Drag of Swept-Back Wings at Zero Lift*, a major contribution to the reduction of drag on wings in the critical region near the speed of sound.

Other publications included *Aerodynamics of Propulsion* (1953) as well as numerous papers and work as editor of many works in the aerodynamic field.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1963 and made a CBE in 1964. He married, in 1936, Helga Janet Praetorius. They had one son and two daughters.

After the war, under the name 'Rigolo', Miss Lechmere designed and sold hats in Knightsbridge. She was commissioned to make the hats for several theatrical productions. To those students of the Modern Movement who sought her out, she was a charming and interested friend. That lively intelligence which was her passport in the man's world of pre-war London was still very much in evidence in her final years.

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OBITUARY
MISS KATE LECHMERE

A correspondent writes:

With the death of Miss Kate Lechmere one of the last links with the Great London Victoria has gone. Born in 1892, Miss Lechmere was educated at Clifton College, Bristol, and later was an art student in London and Paris.

Her association with the late Edwardian art world began when she studied under Walter Sickert at Westminster School of Art in 1912. Through her friendship with Wyndham Lewis, Miss Lechmere came to know Gaudier-Brzeska, Ezra Pound, Epstein and T. E. Hulme; and it was with the financial help that the Red Art Centre was established in Great Ormond Street, within sniping distance of its Bloomsbury foes.

The Saturday morning gatherings with Miss Lechmere serving tea and biscuits to the founding fathers of British Modernism, were a great success. However, when the war intervened, the Red Art Centre was closed. Miss Lechmere turned to nursing. The death of her close friend, T. E. Hulme, killed in action, was a great loss.

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Forthcoming marriages

Dr M. H. Chesshyre and Miss J. D. Maude. The engagement is announced between Matthew Henry, son of Colonel and Mrs E. L. Chesshyre, of Don Jon House, Canterbury, Kent, and Jennifer Diana, eldest daughter of Major J. C. Maude, MC, and the late Diana Maude, of Chestnut Farm, Drayton Parslow, Buckinghamshire.

Mr C. Johnson and Miss M. Furse. The marriage has been arranged, and will take place quietly on April 3, between Carl Johnson, of 4 Queen's Gate, London, W2, and Miranda Jill Dolgoff, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicolas Furse.

Mr A. J. F. Nichols and Miss S. M. Stry. The engagement is announced between Andrew John Fairfield, of the late Mr F. J. Nichols and Mrs Nichols, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, and Susan Mary, daughter of Mrs E. L. Stry, of Buffalo, New York, United States.

Mr M. S. R. Headcote and Miss S. M. Ashley. The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Brigadier and Mrs S. Headcote, of Andover, and Susan, daughter of the late Lieutenant-Colonel G. Ashley and of Mrs Ashley, of Aylesbury, Essex.

Dr C. A. S. Martin and Miss M. A. Broom. The engagement is announced between Charles Ainsworth Slavelley, elder son of the late Dr C. A. S. Martin and Mrs M. A. Broom, of Great Cottage, Osborne, Sherborne, Dorset, and Marian Anthon, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. L. Broom, of Poverty Hollow, Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York. The marriage will take place at Oyster Bay on April 19.

Mr J. R. Nelson Parker and Miss M. A. Maguire. The engagement is announced between James, younger son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel C. P. Nelson Parker and of Mrs Nelson Parker, of Baginbun, White Coline, Colchester, Essex, and Elaine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J. W. Maguire, of 14 White Coline, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire.

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In this Special Report Peter Hill, who recently visited Finland, looks at the growth of the shipbuilding industry. He also comments on the prospects for the highly specialized yards, which produce a variety of vessels from icebreakers to oil rigs

Finnish shipping

Industry confident in ability to innovate

They are building a ship called the Finnjet in a dock at Helsinki. In a few months time the Finnjet will be based out of the building dock for fitting out in readiness for her maiden voyage as the end of May next year. Her progress will be watched with considerable interest by the international shipping fraternity for the Finnjet represents, as Concorde does in the air, a whole new era of sea travel.

The Finnjet project symbolizes the confidence of the Finnish shipping industry in its ability to innovate successfully. At the same time it represents the results of years of intensive specialization in ship design by Finnish shipbuilders who have concentrated successfully on the types of ships that other nations have found unprofitable to build.

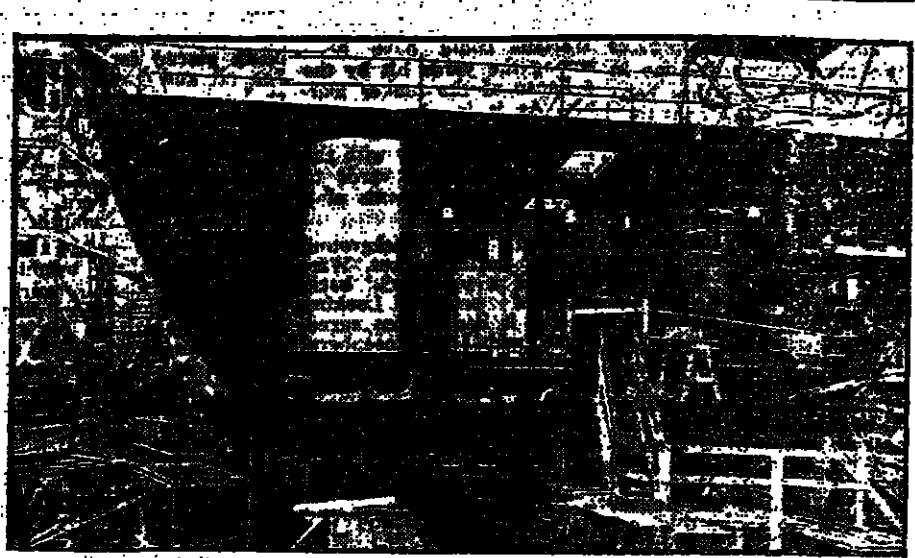
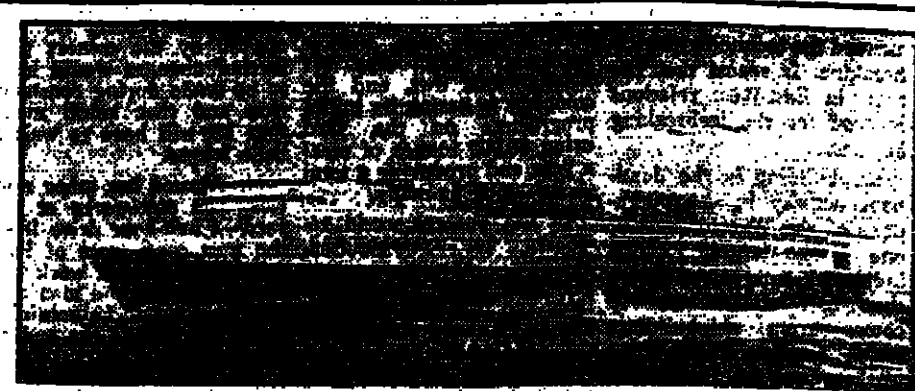
Certainly the project is a bold one. The Finnjet is designed to transport up to 532 passengers, together with a number of cars and carries between Helsinki and Travemünde in northern Germany every 22 hours at speeds of up to 30 knots. She will cost 200m Finnmarks and that excludes the price of the Pratt and Whitney gas turbine engines which will produce up to 15,000 hp to drive the ship through the waters of the Gulf of Finland.

She is not a particularly attractive looking ship—at least from the model which stands in the offices of her builders, Wärtsilä—with her towering superstructure contrasting sharply with the angular lines of the hull. But her shape is the result of several years of intensive research work into what would be the best form of passenger transport for the particular trade in the 1980s.

Finnjet will be the first ship of her kind to be powered by gas turbines which, until now, have been confined largely to naval ships. She will cut the journey time dramatically between the two ports and will replace between three and four other ships, providing not only savings from reduced time in port but also substantially reduced crew costs.

It was inevitable that the Finnjet should have been conceived in Finland which has established itself as a pioneer in sectors of the market which other shipping nations have chosen to ignore. This policy has ensured that Finland has maintained a steady position on the international shipping scene with a merchant fleet of about three million tons dwt and a shipbuilding industry which accounts for about 1 per cent of world deliveries—sufficient to place the industry about fifteenth in the international league table.

At a time when the world's shipbuilding industry is in the throes of its worst crisis since the 1930s, with demand almost nonexistent, with competition for the few orders that are available subject to vicious price cutting and the need for a massive cutback in shipbuilding capacity worldwide, the Finnish yards find themselves in a much less exposed position.



The passenger ship of the future, brainchild of Finnish designers, contrasted with routine work of the country's yards. Top: an artist's impression of the passenger/car ferry Finnjet. Left: icebreakers under construction in the Wärtsilä yard, Helsinki. Right: an oil-drilling platform at the Mäntyluoto works of Rauma-Reppola near Pori.

Close on 95 per cent of the industry's order book is for export and about half the total is destined for the Soviet Union, which has become Finland's largest single export market and a valuable customer for the country's shipbuilders. The expansion programme in the immediate postwar period under which Finland was required to provide Russia with close on 600 merchant vessels, of all shapes and sizes. This special relationship has ensured a steady base-load of work for the yards which will most certainly continue, but it is now being tested as never before as other shipbuilding nations compete for Russian orders forcing the Finns to lower their prices too.

Unlike other shipbuilding nations, Finland has not been hit by a flood of cancellations—the industry has lost only one order for a 150,000-ton dwt tanker. But with only one new order placed in the final quarter of last year and none in the third, Finnish yards are scouring the horizon for new work and some will need orders in the first half of this year to ensure that their facilities are fully employed.

Against the international trend, the Finnish shipbuilding industry receives almost no support from the Finnish Government in the form of subsidy assistance. The Finns have tended to adopt a consistently hawkish posture on shipbuilding assistance which is an established feature of the industry throughout the world and yards are not exerting any noticeable pressure for a change. The extent of government involvement in the form of assistance extends to a guarantee scheme which applies to all capital goods exports—the K-guarantee—under which the Finnish Government reimburses a company with a proportion of the additional costs on a contract which has been affected by inflation.

Inflation has been a worry for the Finnish shipbuilders. Last year the country's inflation reached a level of 18 per cent. As Mr Tapio Forsgren, managing director of the Finnish Shipbuilders' Association, observed: "We are very worried about inflation rates here and their effect on our ability to quote competitively. If we cannot, then this country is out of the international shipbuilding market."

At the end of January employers and trade unions finally agreed on a package of measures designed to reduce the levels of inflation, involving a five-month price freeze and pay increases being limited to a maximum of some 6.7 per cent.

The extent to which these measures are actively promoted and accepted by the shipbuilding industry's 16,000-strong labour force remains to be seen. The industry has suffered in recent years from a shortage of skilled labour as workers have been attracted by the higher rates of pay and other incentives in Sweden. Shipbuilders are finding it easier now to recruit the people they need, particularly at a time when Finnish unemployment has now grown to around 4 per cent of the total national workforce.

But the industry has not been without its problems. In 1974 strikes hit a number of yards badly, and in the Turku area, the heartland of more extreme elements of the Finnish Communist Party, there are fears that militant union leaders will be seeking to express their displeasure at the recently agreed package of measures. Meanwhile the industry has invested substantial sums in new facilities in recent years with some Fmk 1,000m scheduled for investment between 1972 and 1980. More than half of this has been taken up by two major in-



Building in a cold climate

It is only when the outside temperature drops to about -15°C that welding work in Finnish shipyards is legally supposed to stop. In the past four winters, however, the temperatures by Finnish standards have been mild so that there has been little disruption to production, although this year is proving that the traditional winter has not disappeared completely.

Most Finnish shipyards allow at least one week each year in their production planning for weather disruption, although to a large extent all fabrication work is now undertaken in heated fabrication halls.

The Finnish winter climate, however, is hardly conducive to the building of ships considering the morning darkness and the often heavy falls of snow, but the shipyards have overcome the difficulties and production levels have been such in recent years that the industry has ranked as fifteenth in annual production in the league table of the world's largest shipbuilding countries.

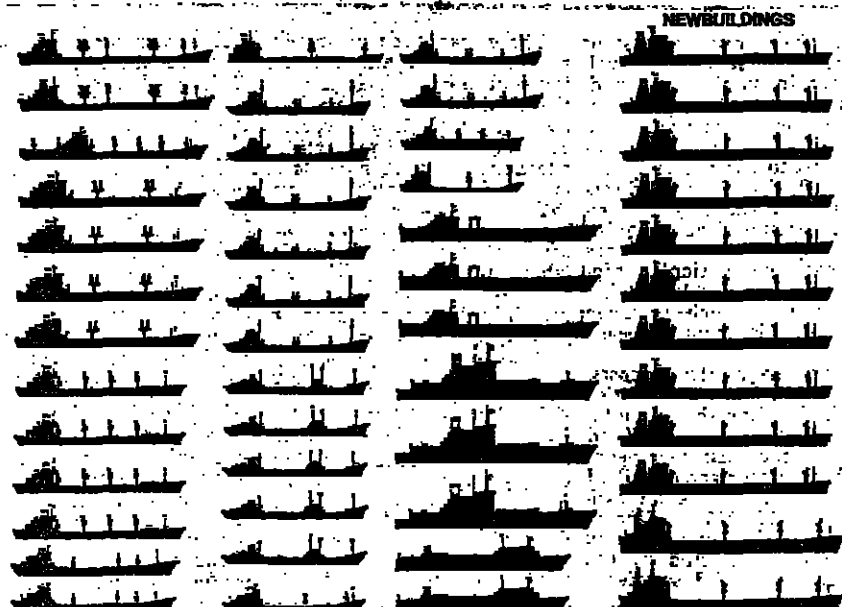
Like shipbuilding across the world, the industry has its fair share of difficulties. Not least is the need to obtain new orders to guarantee full employment of its facilities. The Finns have invested heavily in recent years and one big new facility, the Wärtsilä yard at Perno, is about to come on stream shortly. Yet there is a widely held view that, if shipbuilding is to survive, capacity world wide must be cut by up to 50 per cent.

Finnish shipbuilders are confident that their new investments will produce a satisfactory return, although they concede that it will be a tougher task than they expected. But Finnish yards have wisely steered clear of concentrating on a series production of standard ship types like the very large crude carrier and bulk carrier. These are policies which have led to serious troubles for other yards.

But can even the big degree of specialization which characterizes the Finnish industry provide a sufficiently large shield for the industry? Will the Finnish Government's economic policies have the effect of reducing inflation rates which have made Finnish yard tenders less competitive? Will the Government be forced to modify its traditional policy of non-intervention in the industry's affairs? What effect will pressure for greater worker participation have on the prospects and prosperity of the industry?

These are among some of the questions posed in the light of the world situation and ones to which Finnish yards are addressing themselves. In recent years, however, the Finnish industry has reaped the benefits of specialization in sectors of the market which other shipbuilding nations have chosen to ignore. Its skill and technological lead in constructing icebreakers and specially strengthened ships able to navigate ice-choked waters is unequalled. But that specialization is reflected across a whole range of ship types—cruise liners, passenger ferries, roll-on, roll-off ferries—which form a regular cross-section of its order book.

continued on next page



The Finncarriers.

Modern ships

These are our ships—Finnish ships of the line which from the beginning of 1976 will take care of sea transports between Finland and the rest of Europe, as well as North Africa, smoothly and flexibly. At the moment we have some 40 ships in our fleet, but our comprehensive new-building programme will ensure that our transporting capacity will be more and more effective in the next few years. The Finncarriers fleet includes both ro-ro and conventional vessels, which means we have the right sort of ship for all kinds of general cargo. On the ships of Finncarriers goods reach their destination swiftly and safely.

Flexible connections

Finncarriers is an organisation founded jointly by the two leading Finnish shipping companies for their freight operations in the Baltic, the North Sea, the Bay of Biscay and the Western Mediterranean. Our personnel has been recruited from among the top experts in the founding companies. These people know what seafaring means—how goods should be conveyed and how they should be delivered. Our dense network of international routes, our regular schedules and our experienced agents provide safe conveyance and smooth delivery.

Effective service

Finncarriers is a joint organisation of Finland Steamship Co Ltd and Finnlines Ltd. Our aim is to take care of the existing routes of the parent companies and to provide reliable and rationalized line and contract freight services. Finncarriers will work in Europe, particularly where Finnish foreign trade has its most important markets. We at Finncarriers take our responsibilities seriously and we are ready to serve.

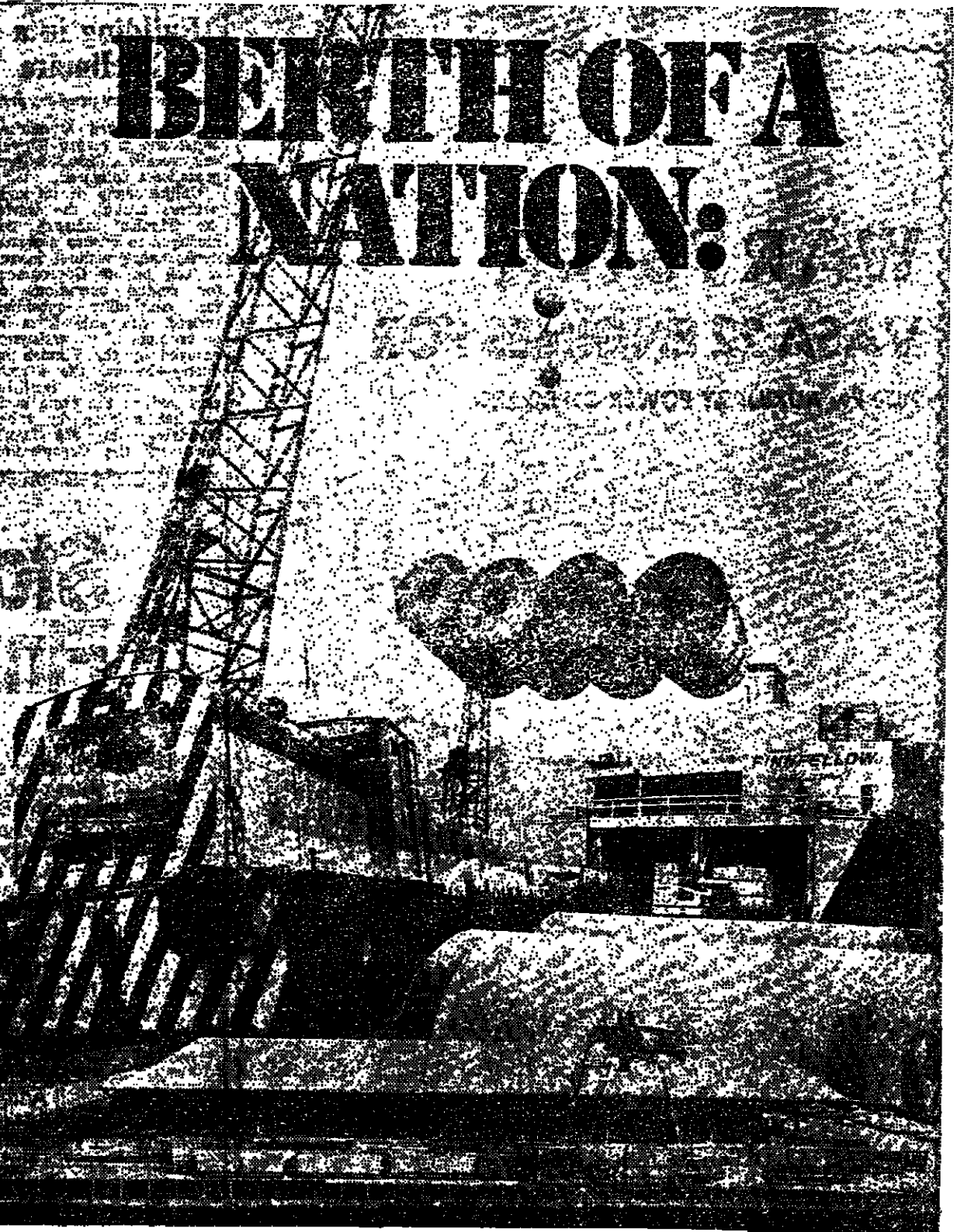
FINNCARRIERS

Oy Finncarriers Ab, Korkeavuorenkatu 34, SF-00130 Helsinki 13, phone 90-64144

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A welder at work in the Rauma-Reppola shipyard.



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Purfleet Deep Wharf & Storage Co. Ltd.

You can find out more by contacting Long Reach House, London Road, Purfleet, Essex RM16 1PD, Telephone: Purfleet 55122

Growing competitiveness of merchant fleet

Land's shipping industry and 47 per cent from imports. But last year the industry's gross freight earnings are estimated to have fallen back on the levels of the previous year.

In its share of foreign trade the Finnish industry increased its share of import trade marginally in 1974 to 53.4 per cent from 52.6 per cent the previous year and its share of the export trade amounted to 50 per cent compared with 47.8 per cent the previous year.

Mr. Heikki Holma, chairman of the Finnish Shipowners' Association, underlined the importance of the Finnish merchant fleet: "In Finland, which has been especially hit by balance of payments difficulties, shipping is an extremely significant economic factor, for it earns foreign exchange in international traffic where foreign currency revenues are greater than expenditures, and in shipping out own exports, where less foreign currency is needed than in international traffic and where a part of the freight is charged in foreign currency is paid in Finnish marks thereby yielding savings in foreign currency."

The industry has tended to grow on average at a rather slower rate than the shipping fleets of other Scandinavian countries or of the world fleet, although this has now improved as its rate of growth is about the same as that of other shipping nations. The Finnish fleet amounts to some 227 cargo and passenger ships of more than 500 tons gross including 56 tankers. Their combined deadweight tonnage is just over three million tons of which two million tons is in tanker tonnage. Over half of the Finnish merchant fleet is strengthened for navigation in ice, a vital feature, for most winters see all the main Finnish harbours icebound.

There are about 35 ship-owning companies operating in the foreign trades, most of them fairly small, while the top 10 shipping companies account for more than 85 per cent of the total Finnish merchant fleet and almost a third of the shipping is owned by shipowners from the archipelago province of Åland.

The function of the Finnish merchant fleet has been defined as serving three functions—to serve foreign trade and secure the country's ability to compete, to extend activities to international transport markets, and to promote tourism to Finland by maintaining a passenger fleet.

Shipping companies have a stable volume of orders on hand with world shipyards. Only a small proportion of Finnish tonnage is built by the domestic shipbuilding industry because owners are able to obtain better credit terms elsewhere. It is valued at a total of Fmk 22,500m.

The new ships, which are scheduled for delivery between now and 1978, consist of three 7,000 tons deadweight roll-on, roll-off ships, 14 cargo ships ranging in size from 10,700 tons deadweight to 16,000 tons deadweight, 11 bulk carriers of 30,000 and 35,000 tons deadweight, seven tankers, including one of 154,000 tons deadweight and a liquefied petroleum gas carrier of 8,900 tons deadweight. At the Wärtsilä yard in Helsinki construction is going ahead on a gas turbine powered passenger car ferry which is scheduled to enter service next spring and which will revolutionize transport between Finland and West Germany.

Mr. Holma says: "The realization of a successful shipping policy in Finland requires a constructive exchange of ideas between shippers and shipowners. But this is not sufficient in today's world, for in the development of such an important industry as shipping a sympathetic attitude of the Government is also necessary."

For some months a government-appointed committee has been looking at the shipping industry and attempting to produce

recommendations that will ensure the growth and the competitiveness of the Finnish merchant fleet. One key area of concern to the shipping industry in the country's deliberations—the results of which are expected shortly—is the question of taxation policy and in particular the method of depreciation which is permitted.

On the passenger side business last year suffered more serious setbacks than in general cargo with the number of passengers carried falling back on the total carried the previous year. There are 31 Finnish passenger ships engaged in foreign trade but the competition, particularly on the Baltic services between Finland and Sweden, is bitter and some owners have been forced to review their operations.

Mr. Holma sees a bigger and more important role for the Finnish shipping industry but he does not underestimate the difficulties. "In a few years the Finnish merchant fleet will be playing an even greater role on the domestic economic stage. Changed conditions will, however, also set new demands for shipowners. We should prepare for long term difficulties, for the present slump will not end quickly. Old concepts are not suited to today's circumstances. New means must be created in order to avoid excessive losses in difficult years."

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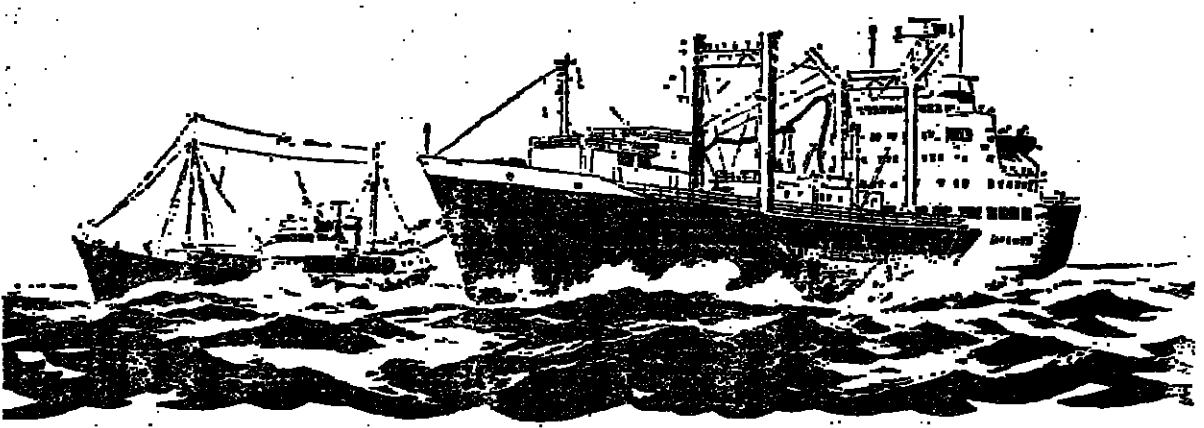
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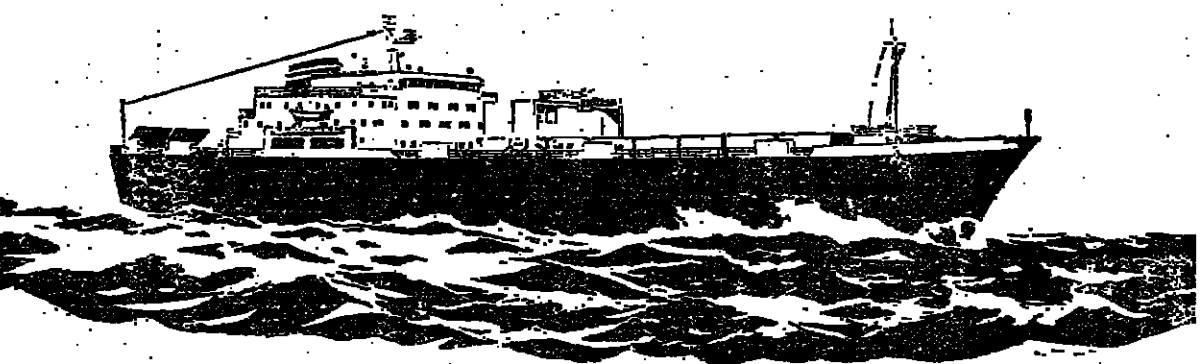
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We must be stupid— we love problems— —your problems— especially when we have solved them!



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Ro-ro ferries for a rapid cargo service

A notable feature of these 5,600 dwt roll-on/roll-off vessels is the twin stern door arrangement, which forms loading ramps for two-way wheeled traffic. Inside the vessel, stowage is arranged on three decks while space is also available on the weather deck for cars and containers. To load and unload the ship only takes about 6 hours.

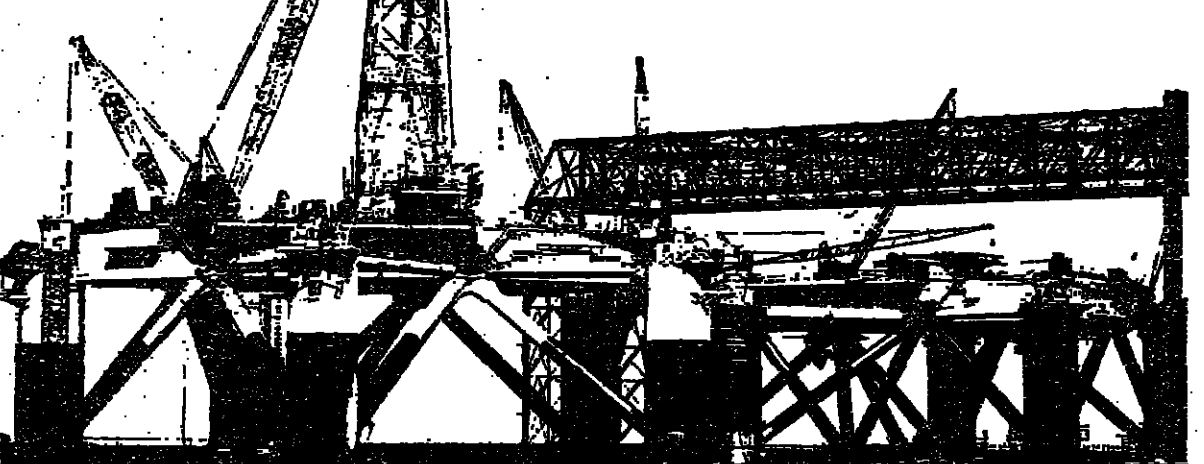


Navigating through

M/t Samotlor is the tankers to be built in conditions in environmental a minimum.

the polar ice requires a very special ship.

first vessel in a series of fourteen ice-strengthened at the Rauma Shipyard intended for navigation in severe arctic waters. Because she is a double skin tanker the pollution even in hazardous conditions is reduced to



Strong Finn—Rauma-Repola.

Rauma-Repola is one of the largest public companies in Scandinavia, active in four main fields of production—engineering, shipbuilding, mechanical and chemical wood-processing. The number of employees is 18,000 in forestry divisions, eleven sawmills, two ply wood factories, five joineries, a pulp mill, a paper mill, eight engineering works and three shipyards. Turnover in 1975 US\$ 500 million—and an orderbook of US\$ 900 million in the metal industry alone.

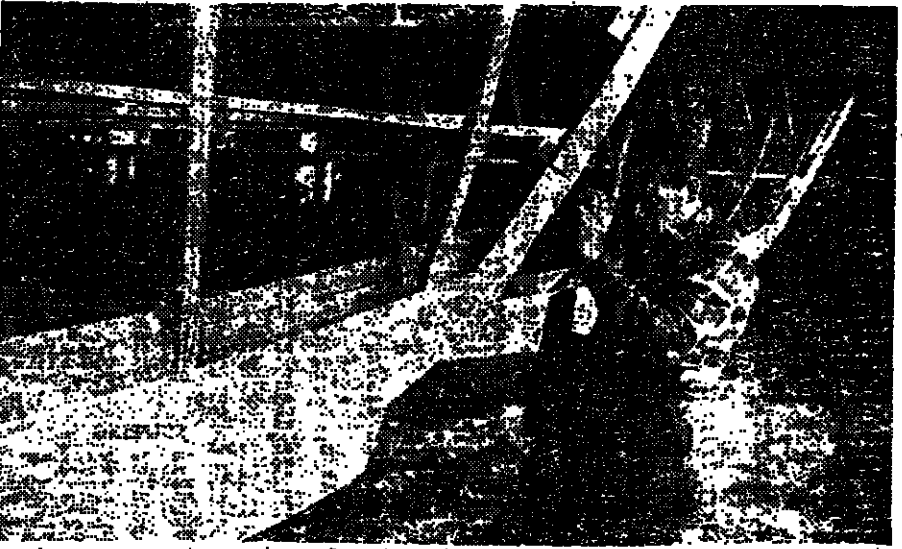
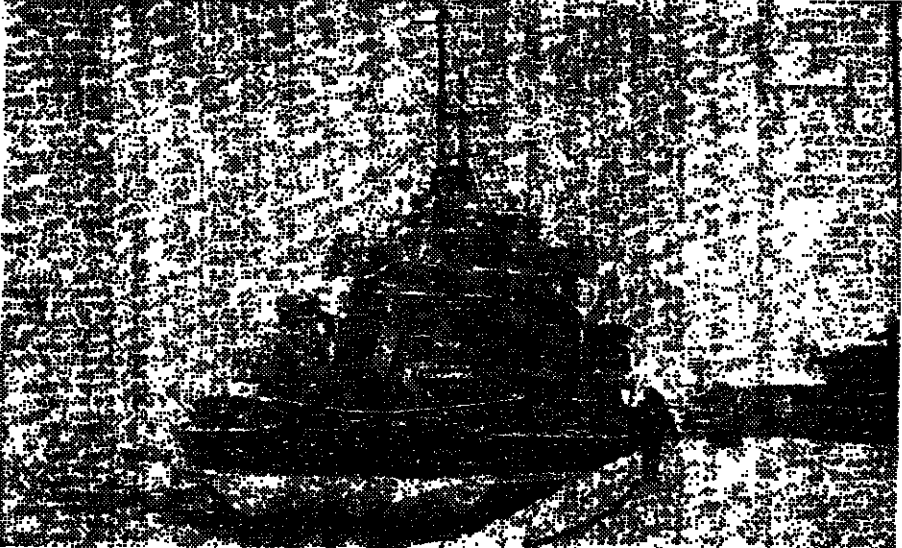
Shipbuilding division comprises shipyards in Rauma, Uusikaupunki and Savonlinna. Mäntyluoto Works is part of the Rauma-Repola engineering division, specializing in offshore drilling construction and heavy engineering products.

Rauma-Repola is today one of the biggest builders of semi-submersible oil drilling rigs in the world, 4 delivered, 8 in order.



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Valmet Vuosaari shipyard, Helsinki (top and left); a Finnish icebreaker in a northern port (centre) and hand-made motor auxiliary craft taking shape at a boatyard in Rauma (above).

More services to UK

Britain has been traditionally an important export market for Finnish industry and a network of shipping services linking the two countries reflects the levels of trade between the two.

From the beginning of this year Finland and Finland Steamship formed a new joint company, Finn carriers, through which about 40 vessels are operating on services between Finland, the Baltic ports, Bay of Biscay, west Mediterranean and the United Kingdom.

Finn carriers and the United Baltic Corporation and Felixstowe with other vessels, operating a one-ship-a-week service into Harlow and two ships every three weeks into Grange-mouth. Ships operated by Finn carriers to the Thames, not begin until the end of roll-on/roll-off service like Medway and Felixstowe are 1974.

another service operated by the same two companies through the joint company, Finn carriers. Ferries which has roll-on, roll-off ships sailing between Turku, Mäntyluoto and Finnish west coast ports and Hull, and between Helsinki, Kotka and Hull.

In addition to the regular ferry services between two countries, there are three or four conventional cargo vessels operating a weekly service between Finnish ports and London, Rochester and Felixstowe with other vessels, operating a one-ship-a-week service into Harlow and two ships every three weeks into Grange-mouth. Ships operated by Finn carriers to the Thames, not begin until the end of roll-on/roll-off service like Medway and Felixstowe are 1974.

handled by a newly-formed company, Gee Glover Services. Roll-on, roll-off services between Finland and the United Kingdom were pioneered by the Bore Line which established its Turku-Harwich route in 1972, although a partial roll-on/roll-off system had been operational since 1964. The Bore XI which is engaged on the three-day run is able to carry 80 12-metre trailers or their equivalent.

The Finanglia company was established mainly to ship products of the Finnish forest industry to London. Because of delays in completion of the new terminal at Purfleet, regular traffic did not begin until the end of 1974.



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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Small is peaceful
in the factories,
page 23

CBI seeks a new pay ceiling of 5pc and a Budget in two stages

Melvin Westlake, leader of the British Industry Federation, today revealed the opening position for the coming negotiations over the pay of the pay restraint programme by advocating a maximum increase in earnings of 5 per cent to follow the present policy which expires in July. A recommendation for an average 5 per cent during the coming year of the conference programme forms part of the annual pre-Budget representations of the Confederation of British Industry, the employers' organisation.

The CBI's recommendations, which in essence aim to keep a cash position of British companies, were outlined to Mr. Selwyn Lloyd, the Chancellor, at a meeting lasting one hour and half yesterday.

In their broad strategy the recommendations bear striking resemblance to the Chancellor's own approach revealed a few days ago when speaking at a meeting of the Labour Economic Finance and Taxation Association.

Then he indicated that he would cut taxes if the trade unions accepted a pay limit of 5 per cent.

Lord Watkinson, the CBI's director, said that the recommendations, the leading director, and other industry leaders yesterday suggested at the Chancellor should take a two-stage approach. The first stage would be to secure a total package, and that a significant budgetary measure should wait until the economy is performing better. The second stage would be to secure a higher rate of pay increase than low income employees.

plea for tax concession

Our Insurance respondent

A plea for favourable tax treatment of investors who have government stocks in exchange for shares in nationalised companies has been made by the British Insurance Association.

The association, which represents the insurance industry, said that the holding of shares in nationalised companies is a long-term investment and that the holding of shares in such companies is a long-term investment and that the holding of shares in such companies is a long-term investment.

CSO quoted to show overall loss by manufacturers in a year

Kenneth Owen, technology correspondent, writing in the Central Industrial Office, United Kingdom, today revealed that the manufacturing industry as a whole ran at a loss in 1974 and showed a record low for value per employee and a record high for value added per employee.

The CSO figures, based on information received from the CSO, given in London last night, showed that the manufacturing industry as a whole ran at a loss in 1974 and showed a record low for value per employee and a record high for value added per employee.

Standard Chartered makes £31m rights issue

By John Whitmore

Standard Chartered Bank, the London-based international banking group, yesterday announced that it is asking shareholders to subscribe an additional £31m of equity capital, making it the third major British bank to tap the stock market in the latest round of rights issues.

The reasons for raising new capital are twofold. First, the bank considers it desirable to improve the ratio of its capital to its consolidated deposits. Secondly, it wants the bank to be in a position to be able to take advantage of opportunities to expand business, particularly in the international trade in prospect.

Profitability in the current financial year (which closes at the end of March) has, however, been affected by the general economic recession. Although the group estimates that it will not need to make year end provisions on anything like the scale of the £16.7m pre-tax provisions of 1974-75, enabling group net profit to rise from £29.7m to not less than £34m, it adds that trading profits for the year will be little affected.

After the opening six months, trading profits had been running at a high level and many City analysts had been expecting the rate of improvement to be maintained.

Price controls extended to July

An Order in Council extending the Price Commission's powers from the end of March to July 31 has been laid before Parliament.

The document gives no indication of government plans for the Price Code and the commission after that.

State industry heads set up a forum

By Peter Hill

State industry chairmen have established their own forum—the Nationalized Industries Chairmen's Group—designed to enable the public sector of industry to speak with a collective voice to the Government on major issues.

The new group, made up of 21 state industries and public undertakings, represents a big step forward for the public sector, and it will clearly form a major force in government industry discussions.

But the influence of the new group was obviously going to grow considerably at the expense of organizations like the CBI, where most state industries have members.

The most dramatic example was the public row last year between Sir Monty Finniston, chairman of the British Steel Corporation, and Mr. Wedgwood Benn over the corporation's redundancy plans.

They are also becoming progressively more irritated at the way in which their salaries are being held down. This has led to a series of anomalies in the salary structures of their respective industries.

Asked about the role of government-nominated directors to the Chrysler UK board, which the names are yet to be announced, Mr. Lord said they would be responsible to the company as a whole.

Alaskan oil search ban

Washington, Feb 25.—Mr. Thomas Kleppe, Secretary of the Interior, announced yesterday that joint bidding by major oil companies will be banned in the forthcoming sale of petroleum leases in the Gulf of Alaska.

The department had adopted a general ban on joint bidding by the largest companies in offshore areas last year, but announced the regulation on January 23 to allow exceptions in unusually risky areas.



State chiefs meet: Standing (left to right): Mr. James Driscoll, observer for the British Steel Corporation; Sir William Ryland, chairman of the Post Office; Mr. Frederick Wood, chairman of National Bus Company; Sir Patrick Muirhead, chairman of Scottish Transport Group; Mr. Kenneth Robinson, chairman of London Transport Executive; Sir Dan Pettit, chairman of National Freight Corporation; Sir Peter

Menzies, chairman of Electricity Council; Sir Humphrey Browne, chairman of British Transport Docks Board; Lord Boyd-Carpenter, chairman of Civil Aviation Authority. Seated (left to right): Sir Richard Marsh, chairman of British Rail; Sir John Hill, chairman of Atomic Energy Authority; Mr. Nigel Foulkes, chairman of British Airways; Sir Monty Finniston, chairman of BSC; Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of National Coal Board.

being held down. This has led to a series of anomalies in the salary structures of their respective industries.

It is on issues of this kind that the new group, which is to have a budget of up to £50,000 a year and a small secretariat, will concern itself and will seek to obtain some changes through discussions

with the Prime Minister and his ministerial colleagues. But the bulk of yesterday's meeting, attended by most but not all those industries in the new group, was taken up with procedural matters.

In a statement issued afterwards the chairman said the group would represent the views of the members on matters of both direct and general concern to nationalized industries and to provide a forum at which chairmen could exchange views.

Mr. James Driscoll, the BSC's managing director for corporate strategy, and Mr. Colin Ambler of the National Coal Board, will continue to act as the core of the group's secretariat.

Aid to Chrysler only a temporary measure, Treasury official says

By Edward Townsend

A top civil servant in the Treasury stressed to MPs yesterday the temporary nature of the state aid for Chrysler UK, saying that the government was not prepared to make a long-term commitment to the company.

Mr. Alan Lord, head of the domestic economy group at the Treasury, said that public funds were to be used to cover the company's losses, but that the government was not prepared to make a long-term commitment to the company.

Mr. Lord said they would be responsible to the company as a whole.

A director might concern himself with the interests of those who put him on the board, but under the Companies Act a director could not sit for a sectional interest.

The last thing you want is an arrangement under which you have a government mark on the board who by-passes the board as a whole.

On the subject of monitoring Chrysler's future performance, Mr. Lord, who returned to the Treasury from the Department of Industry last October to help to coordinate the various financial aspects of the Government's new industrial strategy, said the Department of Industry would be receiving monthly reports.

JWT drops account in dispute with Schweppes

By Patricia Tisdall

J. Walter Thompson, the advertising agency, has resigned its account with Schweppes, which it took over from Ogilvy Benson & Mather in 1972.

A series of disagreements between the two companies culminated on Monday when Schweppes rejected the agency's creative proposals for a television and poster campaign due to appear later this spring.

Next day Mr. John Lindesay-Bethune, managing director of JWT, met Mr. John Beasley, chairman of Schweppes, to hand in his resignation of the account, one of the agency's biggest.

Commenting on the decision yesterday, Mr. Lindesay-Bethune said the new campaign "conformed completely to the requirements of the brief. In my opinion it had the style and tone essential to Schweppes advertising and would have contributed outstandingly to the reputation and commercial success of the brand."

Rejection of an important part of the plan, he said, "highlighted a deep and fundamental difference about the nature of advertising appropriate for Schweppes. In the circumstances there appears to be no alternative but for us to withdraw."

With OBM, its previous agency, Schweppes had gained international recognition in advertising circles by abbreviating its brand name to "Sch" in its slogan with William Franklyn, the actor, who had been advertising the products.

Its brief was to extend existing associations with tonic water. Schweppes' largest-selling mixer product, to other products like ginger ale and bitter lemon. To do this it devised the word "Weppes" heavily used in the first of the three campaigns run by JWT for the company.

In subsequent campaigns, however, the "Weppes" theme was dropped in favour of the earlier "you know who" theme.

Neither JWT nor Schweppes will comment on the proposal for the 1976 campaign, beyond saying that it was consistent with earlier advertising.

Three-point lira support package

From John Earle, Rome, Feb 25

Italy's government has announced a package of restrictive measures in the hope of halting the plunge in value of the lira when the foreign exchange markets reopen on Monday.

The decisions were taken at a meeting in the Treasury ministry last night after an anxious day in which the lira lost about 2 per cent against the dollar. The restrictive measures were three.

From today the discount rate is raised from 7 to 8 per cent, after being lifted from 6 to 7 per cent on February 1.

Banks will have to advance by a month—from mid-April to mid-March—the payment of a scheduled 0.75 per cent extra share of their deposits which must be lodged as obligatory reserves with the Bank of Italy.

Short-term credit facilities which banks have hitherto been authorized to grant to exporters are abrogated immediately, with the intention of draining from the market about 750,000m lire.

Reopening of foreign exchange markets, closed on January 21, means that the Bank of Italy will return to supporting the lira officially.

But it has extremely slender foreign currency resources, and the hope is that promised credits from the European Economic Community (\$1,000m, or about £500m), from the International Monetary Fund (about \$350m) and possibly from the West German Federal Bank, will be negotiated readily.

Small increase in overtime worked

Overtime working increased in November, despite the recession. The percentage of operatives in manufacturing industries working overtime rose to 31.8 from 30.5 per cent in October, according to figures published in today's *Department of Employment Gazette*.

A rise between October and November is a normal seasonal movement, but it was somewhat sharper last year than in 1974 and 1975, suggesting a modest revival.

Short-time working also increased, from 2.9 per cent of the manufacturing work force in October to 3.4 per cent in November.

BOC

BOC International

Interim report for the three months ended 31 December 1975

Group profits, unaudited:—

	Three months to 31.12.75	Three months to 31.12.74	Year to 31.12.75
Group Sales	129,892	108,987	490,902
Operating costs	110,195	92,060	414,673
Depreciation	19,697	18,937	76,229
	6,124	5,003	22,065
	13,573	11,934	54,164
Add: Group share of associated companies' profits	4,035	3,331	15,119
Group trading profit:	17,608	15,265	69,283
Europe	6,014	5,523	28,832
Africa	2,849	2,420	9,454
America	4,130	3,561	16,043
Asia	796	638	2,800
Pacific	3,749	3,125	13,955
Interest	17,638	15,265	69,283
Group profit before tax	4,880	5,654	21,872
Tax	12,778	9,611	47,411
	6,338	4,500	24,981
Minorities	6,440	5,111	22,430
	1,308	920	3,892
Group profit attributable to parent company	5,134	4,191	18,533
Earnings per share (based on 256,542,224 ordinary 25p shares in issue at 31 December 1975)	1.99p	1.98p	8.29p

Further copies of this report may be obtained from the Secretary, BOC International Ltd., Hammersmith House, London W5 5DX. Tel: 01-748 2020.

FLUIDRIVE

(MANUFACTURERS OF FLUIDRIVE FLUID COUPLINGS AND TRANSMISSIONS)

Achievements for 1975

- Turnover up by 32%.
- Record profit of £581,300.
- Work in progress, stocks and debtors increased by less than 7½%.
- Record order book to start current year.

D. L. Donne (Chairman)

copies of the Chairman's Statement and of the accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, FLUIDRIVE ENGINEERING CO. LTD., FLUIDRIVE WORKS, WORTON ROAD, ISLEWORTH, MIDDLESEX TW7 6EH.

How the markets moved

Rises		Falls	
Ass Port Comt	3p to 190p	Rowtree Mac	10p to 201p
Cash Price Index	41p to 421p	Swift Invest A	10p to 160p
Giltsterp Ltd	31p to 413p	Thorn Elec	10p to 244p
GKN	7p to 320p	UC Invest	5p to 195p
Heck's & Wtch	6p to 333p	Ultramar	10p to 190p
Wickens	11p to 421p	W Ribbons	3p to 36p
Jardine M'con	11p to 421p		
Falls		Rises	
Assum Trad B	10p to 210p	Orley Printing	1p to 32p
Enlow Rand	7p to 178p	Palmag-Cous	2p to 28p
Rk of NSW	10p to 640p	Woolst Bldg	1p to 14p
De Beers Ind	25p to 330p	Thurmer Bldg	1p to 6p
Gerrard & Nat	5p to 295p	Union Corp	5p to 320p
Gopeng Cos	5p to 150p	Union Flat	5p to 99p
Messina Trans	15p to 230p	Woolworth	4p to 75p

Equities were subdued by a banking rights issue. Gilt-edged securities had a busier day. Sterling was 10pts up at £2.0260. The "effective deviation" rate was 30.3 per cent.

The Times index: 167.70 +0.41
The FT index: 409.2 +2.0

THE POUND

	Bank	Bank
Australia S	1.67	1.61
Austria Sch	38.00	35.00
Belgium Fr	83.25	80.25
Canada S	2.05	2.00
Denmark Kr	12.75	12.25
Finland Mk	7.95	7.70
France Fr	9.25	8.95
Germany DM	5.30	5.10
Greece Dr	80.00	75.00
Hongkong S	10.30	9.90
Italy Lr	1750.00	1700.00
Japan Yn	635.00	610.00
Netherlands Gld	11.52	11.10
Norway Kr	11.42	11.00
Portugal Esc	64.00	55.00
S Africa Rd	2.25	2.05
Spain Pes	136.50	127.00
Sweden S	9.10	8.50
Switzerland Fr	5.30	5.10
US S	2.05	2.00
Yugoslavia Dnr	40.00	37.00

Gold was \$1 an ounce up at \$133.50. SDR-S was 1.16816 on Wednesday while SDR-E was 0.576727. Commodities: Copper prices again advanced. Reuter's index was at 123.57 (previous 124.6). Reports, pages 24 and 26

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Electrical engineers salary survey points to private sector lag

By Derek Harris

A survey* on professional engineers' salaries, published yesterday by the Institution of Electrical Engineers, adds further fuel to the controversy in the profession over a possibly increasing role for trade unions.

A salary survey last November covering the 15 chartered bodies which make up the Council of Engineering Institutions, pointed out that professional engineers in the public sector, where salaries are predominantly fixed by collective bargaining, did better than those in private industry. The IEE survey, carried out in January, shows public sector engineers still doing better than those in the private sector, but it also assesses the effect of the collective bargaining in the private sector.

This is where most engineers not yet members of trade unions are concentrated. More than 50 per cent of engineers do not belong to a union. About one in nine of IEE Fellows and Members—the more experienced engineers—have their salaries determined by collective bargaining in private industry. Their earnings were more than £1,000 a

year behind those of engineers dealt with individually by employers.

More significantly, the less experienced associate members, around 25 per cent of whom in private industry have salaries fixed by collective bargaining, were also behind by some £500 those with individually-set salaries.

This is likely to be seen as reinforcing the argument that unions or staff associations already operating in private industry are not giving a sufficiently good account of themselves. A strong union affiliated to the TUC is seen by many in engineering as one way of filling this gap.

Comparisons between the IEE and CEI surveys show increases in electrical engineers' salaries since the CEI survey.

At 24 or younger they were getting £2,910 in January (up about 21 per cent) at 30 to 34, £4,800 (about 22 per cent up) and at 35 to 54, £8,800 (about 32 per cent up).

Electrical engineering salaries range from as little as £3,000 a year to more than £10,000.

*Remuneration Survey, Institution of Electrical Engineers, 200, Strand, London WC2R 0BL.

Treasury puts case for 'fair' cuts in spending

By Tim Congdon

Cuts in government spending cannot be biased in favour of or against capital spending, according to the Treasury. Instead they have to be appraised by "a broad political judgment".

The Treasury passes this observation on spending cuts in the fourth special report of the House of Commons Expenditure Committee, published yesterday. It forms part of the Treasury's reply to a report by the Committee in the last parliamentary session.

The committee suggested that it was "damaging and unfair" for expenditure cuts to differentiate against capital items, and argued that future economies should aim to restore the balance by being primarily cuts in current expenditure.

The Treasury rejects this view. It says that the main consideration should be where funds "remaining after the cuts can be most effectively used", and emphasizes the constraints imposed by statutory and contractual commitments.

It also notes that capital and current expenditure are often complementary and that, therefore, an appropriate balance has eventually to be struck by those responsible for each service.

In answer to the committee's call for new regular statistics comparing public and private sector pay, the Treasury says that there have been discussions with the Department of Employment which will extend the coverage of its earnings statistics and will, in future, include a sub-index for public administration.

The committee also asked that interim public expenditure figures be published "when important changes occur, or possibly on a quarterly basis". The Treasury remarks that it would be glad to prepare a consolidated list of announcements of higher expenditure at quarterly intervals.

Whitehall discussions aim to stimulate orders for UK shipyards

By Peter Hill

Discussions between the Government and Britain's shipping industry will be held early next month on measures to encourage shipowners to steer orders to home shipyards.

Concern felt by ministers arises from job cutbacks in the wake of cancellations in the traditional shipbuilding areas which already have high unemployment. The Government is anxious to see more orders placed with domestic yards—to be nationalized later this year—and penal sanctions have not been ruled out.

Pressure from the shipyards for action has been mounting recently, particularly as owners have been tending to place their orders with foreign yards. British shipowners, in common with the rest of the world, are holding back from placing new orders in the face of one of the worst recessions they have experienced. One shipowner explained: "It is not so much a choice of whether we

build in Britain or overseas at the moment as whether we build at all."

The shipping industry has always insisted that it should be allowed to order on the basis of the most advantageous terms of price and delivery.

Various schemes have been discussed for promoting a greater flow of orders to British yards, but the discussions so far have been inconclusive. The industry has had talks with the Department of Trade but the forthcoming round is expected to include the Department of Industry.

The shipbuilders have suggested a stock-building scheme but the industry fears that such a programme would merely exacerbate the problem of oversupply (10 per cent of the United Kingdom fleet is idle at present). Shipowners are more receptive to the idea of cost escalation schemes on export orders being extended to cover domestic orders.

Strong evidence of W German economic revival

From Peter Norman

Bonn, Feb 25

The forecast upswing in the West German economy may have arrived at last. The respected Munich-based IFO Economic Research Institute reported today that West Germany was experiencing a broad-based recovery in industrial activity.

In what is the most positive report to emerge recently on Germany's present economic state, IFO forecast that industrial production this year should rise by between 5 and 6 per cent against last year's drop of 7.5 per cent.

The institute, which bases its monthly reports on a poll of business opinion, said industry's order and production figures gained appreciably in January.

Chicago bank cuts UK rate

By Our Banking Correspondent

First National Bank of Chicago has cut its United Kingdom base rate from 9½ to 9 per cent, undercutting the clearing banks by ½ per cent.

During the past two years First Chicago has proved itself among the more aggressive of the American banks in Britain in expanding its sterling loan portfolio, having opened branches in Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leicester and Bristol. Its loan book now stands at

around £200m, but since last May demand has been declining with the slump in the activity. The present move can be seen as an attempt to attract new industrial business from the clearers.

Money market interest rates have also been a factor, however. The bank calculates its base rate on a formula relating to a moving average of short term interbank rates and argues that the cut is almost entirely justified by recent rate movements.

Growth in Soviet merchant shipping fleet

Expansion of the Soviet merchant fleet is probably less of a threat than has been suggested by leaders of the Western shipping industry. It is now the world's sixth largest, and totals just over 15 million tons deadweight.

But according to a study* published yesterday its build-up in the next five years may not be as dramatic as supposed.

The study notes that in the past six months there has been a big growth in the Russian merchant fleet.

*Soviet Shipping, published by Seaside Publications.

Two choices of worker participation systems

Companies would have a choice of systems for employee participation under EEC proposals, Mr R. C. M. Cooper, of the Department of Trade, told the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Communities yesterday.

Lord Mair, a former Lord Mayor of London, in the chair had suggested that the system would be standardized on the basis of whatever country had "the most stringent" method of worker participation. Mr Cooper said the Commission provided two systems, one based on German practice, the other based on the Dutch system.

Russians to compare nuclear knowhow

A delegation from the Russian nuclear industry is to visit Britain in the spring to explore further the possibilities of a technology agreement with the Nuclear Power Company.

If an agreement is reached, it would cover the pressure tube technology of the type used in Britain's new generation of steam generating heavy water reactors (SGHWRs) and Soviet pressure tube reactors known as RBMK types.

Rhys-Williams Bill to go ahead

Sir Brandon Rhys-Williams, Conservative MP for Kensington, again obtained leave in the Commons yesterday to bring in his Companies Bill, which has twice had a second reading and completed a committee stage in earlier sessions.

It requires that boards of companies having net assets in excess of £3m or employing over 1,500 workers should include at least three non-executive directors who would not be entitled to vote at board meetings.

Pressure group for motor industry

Trade unions, the police and motorist organizations are among the bodies to be represented on the Motor Industry Consumer Committee, a new pressure group formed by the National Consumer Council.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Laying down the aims and limits for running a nationalized industry

From Mr G. R. Hill

Sir, As one currently about to lay down an appointment in the nationalized industry sector, perhaps I may be allowed to reinforce the points made by Sir William Ryland in your columns on February 19.

A senior manager in large businesses, whether in the public or private sectors, looks for a reasonable opportunity to dispose in such a way that his disposal is such a way that he seeks to serve. He searches for overall human and financial stability within his business consistent with the evolutionary change and innovation necessary for long-term survival and success. He hopes that this will contribute to a wider stability, and in turn reinforce his aims.

He wants to be able to form a reasonably clear picture of what is expected of him and what courses are not barred. Within this general context it is especially necessary in the nationalized sector that the strategy of, and expectations of, a manager of a business are consistent with the will of his customers, all the workpeople and the taxpayer.

I have the privilege of working in the nationalized sector for seven years and have seen much excellent management. But the problems of forecasting and planning by those parties from whom commitment must be forthcoming, and of achieving consistency of intentions over reasonable time scales, remain a basic problem of the managerial structure right through, from the political foundation to all its tributaries. It will in my view be essential within the next few years to work out

improved methods for achieving the wider acceptance of aims and boundaries within which each industry and business is expected to work and "succeed".

These industries are huge, they together exert a tremendous gravitational pull within our total economic scene and deserve priority of attention in the re-balancing processes evidently now gaining momentum.

I should perhaps add that I have not been nearly so exposed in my particular business to the extremes of these problems as experienced in the "commanding heights". But a privileged view of the practical effects of the current situation can only impress one with the essential need for the development of improved structures and methods.

Yours truly,
GEORGE R. HILL,
Managing Director,
British Transport
Hotels Limited,
St Pancras Chambers,
London NW1.
February 20.

From Mr B. Marshall

Sir, I write in answer to Sir William Ryland's letter (February 19), entitled "Running a nationalized industry". Like Sir William, I work for the Post Office and therefore for the public. I am an engineer in the London Postal Region.

Sir William made two points in his letter which deserve comment. The pay of senior officials and chairmen of nationalized industries and the relationship between the government and the public sector.

It is quite true that the pay of nationalized industry board members and officials has

fallen behind that counterparts in outside industry. This, I believe, is a situation of the utter loss of outside industry to the fact that its chairmen at least of a company are also shareholders. I therefore being paid a salary, I don't think very popular with men of nationalized industry. The present's pay policy does for any exceptions, so that a rise for any of William's salary range of order. As a public Sir William should be aware of that.

The question of the ship between government and the nationalized industry is very important. The of industries are right out the disastrous re governments taking the public sector based on, rather than some mic or commercial gro to a certain extent, the ment of the day must involved in the running nationalized industries public sector must be accountable to the public. The best machinery to that is government and ment.

I would ask Sir Will the chairmen of the nationalized industries again. I would not like in an industry organize the lines of Mussolini's Socialism. Yours faithfully,
REV. J. ARSHELL,
9 Charleville Circus,
Sydenham,
London, SE26.
February 19.

Sandilands: a 'transparent error'

From Professor Charles Kennedy

Sir, The article by Martin Gibbs (February 23), suggests that adjustment for inflation should be made to net working capital rather than on stock prices. Following on this reasoning would not a simple solution to at least part of the problem of adjustment for monetary assets be to separate the assets and liabilities in the balance sheet between "net fixed assets" and "net working capital"?

"Net fixed assets" would be the amount of fixed assets less long term borrowing and "net working capital" would be made up of stock plus amounts owed to suppliers and less amounts owed to creditors including short term borrowing. Each type of fixed asset would be reduced by its proportion of long-term borrowing before applying the appropriate inflation ratio. Similarly "net working capital" would also be adjusted by its appropriate ratio.

Yours faithfully,
M. E. CULLEY,
Culley & Co.,
170 High Street,
Sunderland,
Warley,
West Midlands B66 3PQ.

From Mr M. E. Culley

Sir, The article by Martin Gibbs (February 23), suggests that adjustment for inflation should be made to net working capital rather than on stock prices. Following on this reasoning would not a simple solution to at least part of the problem of adjustment for monetary assets be to separate the assets and liabilities in the balance sheet between "net fixed assets" and "net working capital"?

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Yours faithfully,
M. E. CULLEY,
Culley & Co.,
170 High Street,
Sunderland,
Warley,
West Midlands B66 3PQ.

tween different types of pay until we include adjustments in our de of profit", and this me to state that it is im; to have meaningful com; between public and private sector economy until local au publish balance sheets same way as public cor do.

When I joined the committee of a local au it came as a great sur; me to learn that capital ditire is not shown se; in a balance sheet, written off immediately. find that the cost of a house is shown, but; value after it has been h

It is my belief t rational discussion of authority expenditure able until proper sheets have been prepar a public company, vork only the cost of building tory, but not its asse; no one would regard giving a true picture a Companies Acts do not such treatment. Yet this is what local authori Yours faithfully,
HENRY TOCH,
Senior Lecturer,
City of London Polytech Department of Accounts and Taxation,
School of Business Studi 84 Moorgate,
London EC2M 6SQ.

Why Blue Vinny disappeared from Dorset

From Sir Richard Trehane

Sir, Francis Kinsman's comments (February 14), on the changing nature of cheese and particularly the disappearing capability of Blue Vinny were as delicious as some Blue Vinny (but not all of it) used to be. It also had a delicacy that was more pronounced than that somewhat robust traditional product.

The secret of its disappearance derives from the changing farming system of the county of Dorset. Until the depression of the 1930s it was a characteristic of farming on the Dorset chalklands that the farmer concerned himself with those things that were respectable—growing corn and keeping sheep—and that the land in the river valley, which was most suitable for dairy farming, was with the

necessary cows rented out to a dairyman on an annual contract.

That dairyman and his family milked the cows, skimmed the cream from the milk for making butter, used the skim milk for making Blue Vinny cheese and the whey for feeding his pigs. That has all changed and the milk is now mostly taken by tanker to the dairy or to the factory.

It used to be said, half in jest, that if the cheese failed to go blue you should hang up an old horse collar in the dairy, but in fact the dairies were so permeated with the blue mould, which is equally characteristic of other blue cheeses, that no introduction from outside was necessary. There have been attempts at making Blue Vinny in factories. These have not

been very successful, pa cause there is no pro our modern dairy fa similar to the setting o for 24 hours and then skimming the cream, about the 1 per cent needed to make good. During this time the m derwent a slow ripening was considered to be an tial condition for makin Blue Vinny.

Sometimes in Dorset advertisements for Blue This should not really cause it is quite different the Blue Vinny and is likely to be a Stilton in quera.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD TREHANE,
Hampton Manor Farm, Wimborne.

UBAF LIMITED

شركة اوباف المحدودة

Balance Sheet at 31st December 1975

	£	£		£
Share capital and reserves			Current assets	
Authorised, issued and fully paid ordinary shares of £1 each		5,000,000	Cash, balances at bankers, money at call and short notice	94,280,562
General reserve		500,000	Bills discounted	6,611,359
Retained profit		412,416	Deposits with banks	68,643,223
		5,912,416	Loans and advances	10,964,184
Shareholders' subordinated loans		5,771,806	Debtors and prepayments	85,088
		11,684,022		180,584,406
Deferred taxation		38,500	Investments in affiliated companies	
Current liabilities			Unquoted — at cost and directors' valuation	407,789
Current and deposit accounts	242,695,982		Loans and advances over one year	74,720,278
Taxation (including £300,070 in respect of 1974)	982,864		Fixed assets	258,992
A.C.T. on proposed dividend	134,615			
Creditors and accruals	185,482			
Proposed dividend	250,000			
		244,248,943		
		255,971,465		255,971,465

TRADING PROFIT for the year ended 31st December 1975, after payment of interest on subordinated loans (£544,155), amounted to £1,239,522

Extracts from the Chairman's Statement

A satisfactory increase in trading profit was achieved, despite the steep escalation of costs. Our commercial banking activities showed commendable growth, but it was in medium term lending that we saw the biggest element of expansion.

A cautious policy of building up reserves is being continued, and a sum of £300,000 has been set aside as a provision against any possible future losses.

After three years of successful operation, a dividend of 5% is proposed.

P.O. Box 169, Commercial Union Building, St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3HT

SHAREHOLDERS: Union de Banques Arabes et Françaises · Libyan Arab Foreign Bank · Midland Bank Limited



Tenneco Inc.

(Incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware, United States of America)

Authorized at 31st December, 1975

150,000,000 Shares of Common Stock par value \$5 each

Issued at 31st December, 1975

80,996,593

The Council of The Stock Exchange has admitted the above mentioned Shares of Common Stock to the Official List. Particulars relating to the Company are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies of the Statistical Card may be obtained during normal business hours on any weekday (Saturdays excepted) up to and including 10th March 1976 from:—

Morgan Stanley International,
4 Place de la Concorde,
75008 Paris

Credit Suisse White Weld Limited,
12 Leadenhall Street, London,
EC3V 4QH

Cazenove & Co.,
12 Tokenhouse Yard, London,
EC2R 7AN

26th February, 1976.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Standard Chartered offers an income bait



Lord Barber, chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, says several methods considered for increasing the capital base.

It has long been supposed that the smaller the firm, the fewer the strikes, but the figures for manufacturing concerns of different sizes from 1971 to 1973, published by the Department of Employment today, are nevertheless significant.

They show that the incidence of time lost through disputes increased with the size of the plant from 15 days for every 1,000 employees in those employing between 10 and 25 workers to more than 2,000 days in plants employing 1,000 or more. The number of stoppages per 100,000 employees rose from eight to 29, but in this case there was little difference between middle-sized firms employing 500 or more and those employing 1,000 or more.

These new statistics will no doubt harden the convictions of those who believe that "small is beautiful" in industrial relations but it does not necessarily follow that all industries should be split into small parcels.

Two thousand days a year is an average of two days for each worker, which is less than one per cent of a man's working time. There may well be advantages of scale in large firms which more than compensate for that, even though a high incidence of strikes is likely to be accompanied by a high incidence of other labour troubles.

The difference may be exaggerated by the fact that the figures include those indirectly affected by stoppages by other workers in the same plant and the proportion of those laid-off in smaller firms is likely to be smaller. This may in fact make a good deal of difference.

In all industries from 1971 to 1973 about 4,400,000 workers were involved in stoppages of which 1,005,000—over 22 per cent—were in large firms. On the other hand, the figures do not take account of lay-offs in other establishments, which are likely to be greater as a result of strikes in big firms.

Figures last week can be taken as a first one at least in sales. Selling prices are a different matter however, and the continuing depressed level of these, together with low capacity utilisation, meant that AKZO's losses last year were £118m against £115m at the nine months stage.

Final quarter figures due shortly from the three German chemical majors—Hoechst, Bayer and BASF—will offer some further guidance for chemical industry prospects generally but for AKZO there remain some particular problems to contend with.

Principally there is the planned reconstruction of the plant at Ludwigshafen, which will cost £125m by the end of last year to cover non-recurring losses. The net loss after this was £178m and it is little surprising that the final dividend has been passed in the light of this.

Net losses moreover would have been £167m higher but for the "clawback" of an inventory risk provision made at the end of 1974. From the remarks made last week, it seems that chief executive Dr Hans Günther Zempelin, it appears that a return to profit this year is by no means assured. Much obviously depends on how far and how fast the recovery in world fibre demand goes, given AKZO's particularly heavy orientation in this product area.

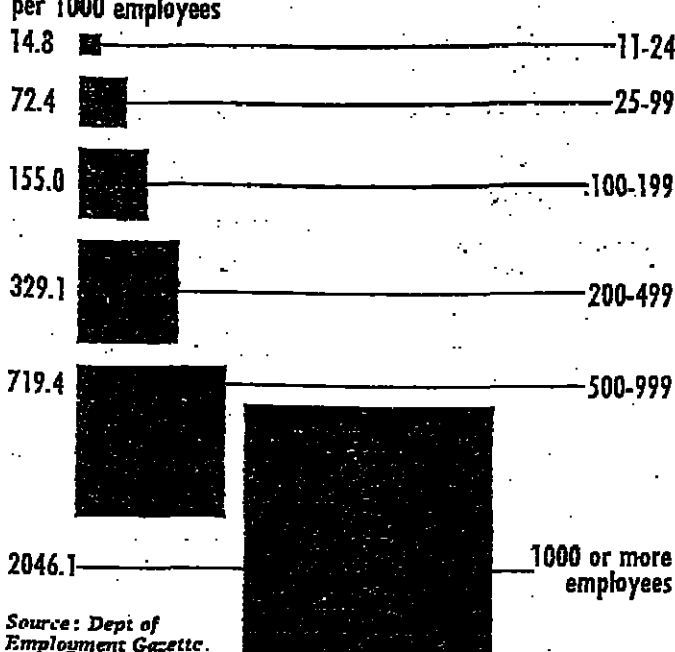
Final: 1975 (1974)
Capitalization 1,434m
Sales 9,690m (10,761m)
Net income 189m (372m)
Earnings per share 12.5p (22.5p)
Dividend gross nil (4)
Loss.

All figures in Dutch florins.

Small is peaceful—the message from the factories

STOPPAGES BY SIZE OF PLANT

annual average 1971-73, manufacturing industry (GB)



Source: Dept of Employment Gazette.

up surveys for 1972 and 1973, but may be revived in future years in view of today's figures.

The Donovan survey was confined to establishments where unions were recognized and so took no account of the many small plants where there is no trade union organization and strikes are infrequent. Nevertheless, it showed that 43 per cent of managers in large plants had experienced a strike while in the job, but only 20 per cent in small plants. More had had experience of other forms of pressure such as strike threats, overtime bans and go-slows, 76 per cent in large plants and 46 per cent in small.

There was evidence of greater mutual understanding in small plants. While no fewer than 95 per cent of managers thought shop stewards at least fairly reasonable, 50 per cent in small factories but only 24 per cent in large thought them "very reasonable".

As might be expected, labour relations in small plants were more informal. Fewer had personnel officers or shop stewards' conveners with special privileges or joint management-worker committees. Formal bargaining covered a narrower range of issues and stewards were more likely to go straight to the manager about grievance without seeing the foreman first.

Foremen had on average only 30 workers under them in small plants, compared with 60 in large ones. They were more often responsible for hiring and firing but only half as many (29 per cent) had any training for the job. Fewer managers in small plants thought the organization of work could be improved, complained of time-wasting practices or said that the workers could be expected to put more effort into their work.

The general impression was of a happier but not necessarily more productive relationship in small plants. It must depend a lot on the management. Workers will feel themselves less like a cog in a great machine but may become rebellious under a dictatorial boss.

There are advantages as well as disadvantages in the labour relations of plants being large. Managers tend to be more experienced. Not only do they train more of their foremen, but they are more able to provide effective general training for the workers. They are better placed to run an adequate pension scheme and other fringe benefits such as sports grounds.

But a small plant does not necessarily mean a small company. In theory at least a multi-plant company may consist of small enterprises in which managements are left free to

run their own affairs, so long as they remain viable, with some central services and skilled guidance and advice provided when it is asked for. The moral for an employer with an expanding market, perhaps, is not to increase the size of his plant beyond a certain point but to start another one instead.

A giant like the General Electric Company can lay great emphasis on devolution. Its 130 businesses are encouraged to preserve the identities and local contacts established before they were brought into the combining. The central industrial relations staff, for a concern employing 170,000 workers, consists of only six people.

When presenting a claim, shop stewards may quote what is happening in other GEC factories, but they are usually ready to accept that no two businesses are in exactly the same position and make their own agreements. Stewards as well as managements are jealous of their independence and encouraged to be so. But a few years ago, after consulting the national unions, GEC replaced 175 separate pension arrangements by one comprehensive scheme.

Not all GEC businesses are small. The number they employ varies from about 100 to 8,000 or more. The largest may be divided into smaller units, but there are some kinds of activity which cannot be successful on a small scale. Motor assembly is one of them.

British Leyland recently announced that individual managers are being made more responsible for labour relations, but they are of necessity responsible for large plants. Motor units could be sub-divided to some extent, but the best solution where large size is unavoidable is probably to devolve responsibility right down to the shop floor along the lines of the various schemes to improve "job satisfaction" that have been devised in recent years. Under such schemes work groups are given greater power of decision and so are their foremen and middle managers.

The beauty of smallness may be found in pieces of big things as well as in small things.

Eric Wigham

Dams halfway across the spending river

On December 19 last *The Times* commented, in a leading article under the heading "Spending is out of control", that "the PESC (Public Expenditure Survey Committee) system remains in concept the most constructive and imaginative institutional contribution to rational government since competitive entry to the Civil Service; but it urgently needs reinforcement by four new Prime Ministerial rules".

A very senior person in the Treasury recently remarked that all the four suggested new rules had now been applied. It is worth inquiring how far this is really true.

The four rules suggested by *The Times* were: "First, that the PESC figures are in themselves a policy commitment which override all particular policy commitments. Secondly, that when substantial changes in particular policies or new commitments are necessary these do not and cannot become government policy until specific compensating savings have been identified and embodied in revised PESC allocations to spending departments or if the overall total is to be increased, until the consequential taxing and financing arrangements have been specified and accepted, and until the changes have been announced to Parliament.

"Thirdly, that all uncontrollable commitments be constantly monitored and, when they threaten to exceed the provision in PESC, compensating adjustments be made forthwith as under the second rule. Fourthly, that when the 'constant price' figures for future years, including the planned price advance for the relative price effect, mature into the actual estimates for the present year, allowance shall only be made for the general erosion of money values and not for the specific price advance, and that the resulting figures shall apply as cash limits."

The question of the status of the PESC figures has always been a vexed one; and the determination to operate the traditional sentence defining them, merely referring to them as "plans" which "are not immutable, and must be open to revision in either direction as circumstances require".

The first public expenditure White Paper (Mr. Mandelson's of December, 1963, Cmd 2235) unashamedly admitted that the figures were an approximate calculation of the indicative level of public expenditure which "do not represent decisions by the Government to spend particular sums in that (1967-68) year". By contrast the second such White Paper (Mr. Callaghan's of February, 1966, Cmd 2915) spoke quite clearly of "decisions establishing limits for the main programmes for 1969-70" and of a specific "decision to limit the total growth of public sector expenditure".

That has remained the formal position in every subsequent White Paper. But in practice under Mr. (now Lord) Barber's Chancellorship the concept of firm allocations was steadily degraded towards the status of mere forecasts. One major spending minister in Mr. Heath's Cabinet remarked to me this week that he never took the slightest notice of PESC, always telling his officials that, if it came to the point, then provided that he could make a good political case, he could always get any money he wanted in the Cabinet, whatever overall spending plans might have been laid.

That disastrous attitude continued in the first year of the present Government. One of Labour's major spending ministers told me recently that he was shocked by the decline in

spending discipline by contrast with the previous Labour government. It remains to be seen whether, on the strength of the tougher climate reflected in the present White Paper, the PESC plans will be restored to the status which they had in the late 1960s.

As to *The Times's* second and third rules, the Treasury's new Cabinet "arrangement" for operational control of the contingency reserve, announced by Mr. Joel Barnett last Thursday, is a substantial step in the right direction, though it falls well short of the watertight standard proposed by *The Times*. Under these arrangements all claims on the contingency reserve will be continuously and synoptically monitored by the Cabinet with a view to avoiding the recent tendency for it to be spent several times over as a result of piecemeal approval of plausible bids.

But it is not clear that this will lead to all possible causes of overspending—policy changes, unexpected relative price movements and increases in "uncontrollable" items—being automatically and swiftly

Peter Jay

Economics Editor

identified as claims on the contingency reserve. Nor is anything said in the Treasury's recent public pronouncements about what happens if and when the contingency reserve is exhausted. Unless there is automatic provision for deciding simultaneously on compensating cuts, the totals may still grow without the economic and taxation implications of that being formally identified and accepted by ministers when extra spending is authorised.

There is no need at all to doubt the Treasury's present determination to operate the control stringently. They even recently applied it, not without considerable grumbling from the aggrieved divisions, to themselves when authorizing extra spending as part of the Chancellor's recent measures to alleviate unemployment.

But nothing has yet been said about reporting the progress of this monitoring of claims on the contingency reserve to Parliament so that those who are supposed under our constitution to be the ultimate watchdogs over executive spending can satisfy themselves that excessive commitments are not being built up for future years. The Expenditure Committee should press Treasury witnesses about this when they appear today before its General Subcommittee.

As to *The Times's* fourth rule, the Treasury's reply to the Expenditure Committee this week explains the form in which cash limits will be applied to 1976-77—spending plans. It is a good start, provided that the limits, especially in the area of the rate support grant—are applied relentlessly.

But the cash limits will only be applied after the PESC figures for 1976-77, which are at 1975 survey prices (ie, those ruling in December, 1974), have been revised to December, 1975, price levels on the basis of the actual pay and price increases experienced in each sector, rather than on the basis of the general erosion of money values. Thus, at least half the horse will have bolted before this stable door is locked.

Business Diary: Out of joint • Conservative estimates

old Sticher, the new finance man of the City of London Corporation, has first-hand experience of the burden of rates the City, about which he has been protesting.

Sticher has a small office in City and is therefore a victim of the increase that he will be imposing on other ratepayers—both domestic and commercial—there.

He also has another office in Smithfield Market, sited on the border of Islington but one street's width away from the City. "Because of a yards that office pays about the rates it would if it was in the City. I get the advantage of this, but it is not fair," Sticher, who is 60, took over chairman of the committee recently known as the Coal and Rates Finance Committee in January after three years as deputy. His predecessor, James Keith, had five years the job, seeing the City's bill rise from £30m to £100m.

when, 10 years ago, Lidstone succeeded in declaring a dividend for the first time in 65 years.

In his new post he is keenly aware of the responsibility he has undertaken. The City's rate will be fixed next Tuesday and then confirmed by the Court of Common Council.

"I shall be protesting strongly on behalf of the City at the rates burden imposed on us. But first I shall have to apologize to the ratepayers. I feel very strongly about it," he said.

Taking account

Accountants may be on the defensive in the wake of the secondary banking collapse, but there is at least one group that is not backward in coming forward.

This is the new Society of Conservative Accountants, of which the party leader, former tax barrister Margaret Thatcher, has consented to be patron.

The chairman is to be Cecil Parkinson, MP for Hertfordshire South, former partner and consultant to City chartered accountants West, Wake, Price & Co.

Parkinson told *Business Diary* yesterday that there were 13 accountants among the 635 members of the Commons, of whom nine—all members of the SCA—were Tories.

Parkinson said, they are in alphabetical order: Bill Clark (Croydon South), John Cope (Gloucestershire South), John Davies (Kauzford), Geoffrey

Dodsworth (Hertfordshire South-West), Alexander Fletcher (Edinburgh North), Michael Shaw (Scarborough), Neville Trotter (Glasgow), and John Wakeham (Malden).

Mrs Thatcher says that the group will offer "practical professional expertise" to the party, and Parkinson said that while the accountancy bodies have, quite properly, been reluctant to meet in party politics, Parliament needs accountants' help.

Nevertheless, the initiative for the establishment comes not from the House, but from Conservative accountants outside. The idea for the group was put to Parkinson and the rest by Jeremy Cripps of Parker Hannifin, Peter Pennington-Leigh of Hill, Samuel and John Butcher of Touche, Ross.

Parkinson said yesterday that so far as he knew there was no comparable accountants' group advising either Labour or the Liberals.

We've all cringed at one time or another at body blows from British Rail or the Post Office, but they do occasionally take time off to have a go at each other.

The Post Office is to close its Waterloo branch, because BR won't so much more rent. The office was based at Waterloo Station since 1937 and it's the last in any big London station.

From March 19 next the nearest alternative branch will be about 400 yards away in the Waterloo Road. Neither BR nor the PO will say how much extra rent was involved.

Continuing an occasional series in which facts are kept on names that once made news...

John Meahen, first Director-General of Fair Trading is off to the CBI. Michael Young, former head of the Consumers' Association, is ennobled at the new National Consumers' Council. But where's Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd, whose answer was once as much as anyone's at the consumer wheel?

The answer is that she's here, there and everywhere, but no longer in the Consumer Council.

She disagreed with Heath's argument that the consumer movement had become more widely recognized and protected; what is more, she was right. But when Heath did a U-turn on consumerism and the Fair Trading Act was passed, the OFT formed and the consumer movement really took off, Dame Elizabeth was not to be in the driving seat.

The OFT, for instance, went to Meahen, an ICI man who could persuade business that it was not being got at, even though it was, Dame Elizabeth, on the other hand, had been a career civil servant. She'd decided to leave the Consumer

Council even before the Heath era, and although she said she'd had enough of the Civil Service and would have liked to run a business, she would say and write upstating things about the council's "brisk encounters with the well organized and well heeled forces of trade and industry".

She remains in, if not so much of the consumer movement through, among other things, a vice-presidency of the Consumers' Association and her membership of Lord Peddie's charity Post Office National Users' Council.

She was a member of Heath's best prices inquiry and single, like Heath, she endorsed his advice to housewives to "shop around". In the past year alone she has become a part-time member of the House of Commons and a member of the House of Lords.

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Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd.

Where are they now?

where that gives her the platform she had in her seven years as founder-director of the Consumer Council, until it was killed off by Edward Heath in 1971.

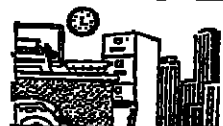
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1974	1975
Group turnover: £124,139,600	Group turnover: £14,504,290
Profit before tax and extraordinary items: £16,000,700	Profit before tax and extraordinary items: £2,017,000
Dividend: 12.5p	Dividend: 12.5p
Earnings per share: 22.5p	Earnings per share: 22.5p
Total dividend: 12.5p	Total dividend: 12.5p
Bonus share issue: 1 for 4	Bonus share issue: 1 for 4

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FINANCIAL NEWS

Coated Metals

C Walker's unfinished fight

Recession may have knocked a lot of the stuffing out of private sector steel companies. But that does not make them pushovers—as little Coated Metals can testify.

The Glamorgan-based company which manufactures aluminium steel strip and coil seems to have found plenty of financial muscle to draw on in purchasing an 85p a share cash offer from its privately owned stockholder, C. Walker & Sons.

And with prospects for their products looking brighter, Coated still looks set to make a revised offer of 125p a share. Prime figure, behind the offer, is Mr. Jack Walker, joint chairman with Mr. Robert Walker, and resident in a house.

His privately-controlled Channel Islands based investment company started to bite into the Coated equity in July when the shares stood at around 40p. The company, Rosedale (I.V.) Investments, now claims control of 730,000 shares or around 20 per cent of the equity with the Walkers themselves holding 1,000 shares—a further 17 per cent.

Walker's first bid of 85p last month valued Coated at

£374,000, while the new offer puts it at above £1.4m.

Coated Metals claims to be the only aluminium steel producer in the United Kingdom. Its products represent small but important component material in domestic appliances and motor cars. New developments are finding a potential market in the building trade.

Walker's which handles nearly 15 per cent of Coated's total output on the basis of an amicable agreement claims a takeover makes good commercial sense over and above the benefits likely to accrue from traditional vertical integration.

Walker's directors say they intend to explore the possibilities both of processing further coated products—though it has not said what these products are likely to be—and of co-ordinating Coated's stockholding, sales and distribution with its own operations, particularly in Europe.

Coated, however, think differently. As well as ruling the 85p offer "totally inadequate" they claimed that the offer made "no commercial sense. The directors are thought to regard Walker as purely an extension of their own sales force and see no reason for

altering this arrangement. The new offer which sent the shares up to around 130p, has yet to be considered by the board.

Coated after a net loss of £31,000 in the year to May last, due largely to destocking by customers, and the resultant suspension of its Blackpool plant, has come back to profitability in the past eight months.

The directors confidently predict pre-tax profits for the year at around £300,000 on sales of around £7m compared with £5.1m last time. This would put earnings, a share at just over 12.5p so at 125p the exit p/e ratio is almost 10, around the average for this sector.

At the same time Coated predicts a return to 1973 dividend levels with a May 1976 year-end total of 10.5p a share gross. Covered over 1.8 times on estimates, the prospective yield is an acceptable 8.4 per cent.

With Coated's directors apparently able to control only 8.5 per cent of the equity directly and indirectly any defence of 125p might look vulnerable. But with Coated looking like a typically cyclical company on the bottom of its upswing the fight may have a few rounds to run.

Richard Allen

Klöckner-Werke omits dividend

After a "disastrous" year to September 30, Klöckner-Werke, the German heavy engineering group, has decided not to pay a dividend. The year before, shareholders received a payment of DM6. The board blamed the decision on the severe drop in the 1975 worldwide steel crisis.

Group profits divided from DM21.2m to only DM537,000 (105,000), though sales rose a little to DM3,386m. The board said that losses in steel making were offset by earnings in lubrication, adjustments to depreciation, and write-offs and sales of fixed assets. Last year the company took a majority holding in Howden, a Pease, Wiltshire, and Staffordshire group which sells flat steel products, iron and cold rolled and zinc coated.

Warner-Lambert's overseas drive

Warner-Lambert, pharmaceutical and optical product manufacturer, announced record sales and earnings from last year. The chairman and chief executive, Mr. E. Burke Giblin, said that sales had risen by 14 per cent to \$2,172m and that earnings were 11 per cent higher at \$163.5m. Earnings a share were also 11 per cent higher at \$2.08.

Overseas

\$75m on research last year and more than \$85m on big capital investment.

The company has negotiated a licence to market Liparyl, a patented new lipid-lowering (fat-reducing) agent. The product has been successfully introduced in France and this year will be introduced on several other international markets.

Mosbert liquidation

The winding-up of Mosbert Holdings will not affect its two Malaysian subsidiaries, Mosbert BHD and Malaysian Wood Products. Both the subsidiaries are 30 per cent owned by Mos-

bert and the winding-up will concern only Mosbert and its wholly-owned offshoots, Renter reports from Kuala Lumpur.

The two companies were answering Stock Exchange questions about the winding-up. On February 5 Mosbert Holdings said it would petition the court in Hong Kong to wind up the company, but did not specify which subsidiaries would be liquidated.

Talcop Associates

Mr. W. G. Peaker, vice-president of Slater, Walker of Canada, which yesterday changed its name to Talcop Associates, said the company is continuing to seek a suitable acquisition in the United States. The cost would be between \$5m and \$10m. He said the company now has about \$6m in cash to spend and would finance the rest through borrowings.

Explaining the name change, a company spokesman pointed out that there was now no connection with Slater, Walker Securities (of England). The latest accounts will be published shortly.

GREENMOUNT & BOYNE
A receiver and manager has been appointed to this Irish maker of casual and protective clothing.

London dealing today in Tenneco stock

The common stock of Tenneco, the United States conglomerate which includes a 49.8 per cent stake in Albright & Wilson among its listed London interests, was listed on the Stock Exchange yesterday. Dealings are due to begin today, Thursday.

Tenneco also owns David Brown Tractors and Harnco Industries in Britain as well as interests in chemicals, petroleum and manufacturing operations. It also has stakes in several North Sea leases.

The acquisition of Harnco Industries last year involved the issue of £6.9m (10 per cent sterling-dollar convertible) secured loan stock of Tenneco. This becomes convertible from May this year. This is one reason why Tenneco has obtained a listing on its common stock in London. The listing was arranged by Morgan Stanley International, Credit Suisse White Weld, and Cazenove & Co.

Tenneco, whose headquarters are in Houston, Texas, describes itself as a "multi-industry company with major operations in manufacturing, natural gas transportation, oil, chemicals, packaging and agriculture/land development."

Fully diluted earnings per share in 1975 were \$3.63 and the Wall Street price of the common stock is \$38.1.

Squirrel Inc leap stills early doubts
Having started the year "remarkably well", the warnings from Squirrel Inc. that profits might later thin out proved unduly pessimistic. In the event, pre-tax profits rose more than doubled in the 12 months to December 1 from \$145,000 to \$332,000—only its best-ever.

Turnover also soared—from \$2.67m to \$3.72m. Earnings a share came out at 4.17p against 1.92p.

The year's performance is celebrated with a proposed one-for-five split issue. The total payment goes up from 2.1p share to 2.4p.

Rea Bps ahead
After a year interim profits. Rea Bps, the bankier, did well in its second six months to raise its profits for the year to December 31 from £417,000 to £422,000. Apart from the dividend which rose from 0.67p to 0.70p no other figures were disclosed at the interim stage.

The dividend is 1.41p gross, making the year's total 2.49p, compared with 2.34p. The board proposes one-for-five split issues on both "A" and "B" shares. The balance sheet shows that balances with banks and money at call fell from £21.5m to £15.3m, but treasury bills, bank certificates and illiquid discounted jumped

from £9.3m to £21.4m. Loans, advances and other accounts slipped from £9.6m to £9.1m. Current deposit and other accounts among current liabilities rose from £46.3m to £32.1m.

John Michael slims down

At the annual meeting, Mr. John Ingram, chairman of the menswear group, John Michael (Savile Row), said that "positive action" has been taken to eliminate loss-making operations and cut costs.

The chairman said that with the improvement in liquidity and management he hoped for better results this year. For the year to January 31, 1975, the group's deficit, sourced from £70,000 to £250,000. Turnover showed a small increase from £2.3m to £2.6m, but interest charges almost doubled to £137,000. There was no dividend as before.

United Real ahead

The pre-tax revenue of United Real Property Trust rose 23 per cent to £805,000 in the first half year to October 3. It includes a share in profits from associated companies of £21,000 to £13,000. At April 5 last, the board says the valuation of properties showed a surplus of £16.1m over book value, after deducting minority interests. Pre-tax profits for the year to April 5 slipped from £1.4m to £1.3m. Interim dividend rises from 1.34p gross to 1.92p.

Glasgow Stockholders

After raising its pre-tax revenue for 1975 from £371,000 to £376,000, Glasgow Stockholders Trust plans to stay fully invested for the time being. Mr. Andrew Rintoul, chairman—he is also the head of Trustee Savings Bank—says that the board's outlook is cautious but optimistic for the rest of the year. A one-for-two scrip issue is proposed.

A small fall in gross revenue reflects the switch from cash and near cash, earning high interest rates, to the present investment. Funds invested overseas have been reduced from \$9.4 to \$1.3 per cent.

Evode acquisition

Evode has recently bought an 80 per cent interest in Societe Chimique Emfi, a French manufacturer of adhesives, of Haguensau, near Strasbourg. This investment will enable the group to expand its activities in France. The Austrian and Swiss markets can be well served from this location with materials with which,

however, have been uncom-
positive.

New look for Hanger motor group

Hanger Investments says that a recent large-scale reorganisation of the Hanger Group, a Midlands-based automotive concern, has brought new strength to certain vital areas of the operation. It has also opened the way to greater exploitation of market opportunities.

Philip Morris to get \$250m revolving credit

New York, Feb. 25.—The board of Philip Morris Inc. has authorized a financing programme under which the company plans to enter into a \$250m (about £125m) revolving credit and term loan agreement with a group of 16 banks led by the National City Bank.

The financing programme, the largest in the company's history, will consist of a three-year stand-by facility convertible into a five-year term loan maturing in 1980. The new credit will be used to support the company's borrowing needs.—AP-Dow Jones.

Int Energy Bank

International Energy Bank, a London-based consortium bank specialising in financing energy developments, increased its profits from £710,000 to £973,000 last year, its second full year of operation. After net profits were up from £234,000 to £438,000.

The group's balance sheet has more than doubled from £41.1m to £83.5m, while its loan portfolio increased from £7.17m to £28.9m. Evidence of a further expansion of the loan book is apparent in future loan commitments of £24.1m. This does not take account of the bank's participation in two new loans totalling \$275m for North Sea developments, which the bank has co-managed.

Creusot-Loire issue

The directors of Creusot-Loire place a one-for-four share issue priced at 130 francs a unit. This compares with 161 francs in the market. It will increase the group's capital from 294.7m francs to 369.5m francs.

President Jean Forget said that profits of this special steels and machine tools group will be

"above 40m francs" for 1975 compared with 46m francs. The dividend should be at least equal to 11.70 francs paid in 1974.—Reuters.

Not easy times for gnomes

Hans Strasser, president of the Swiss Bank Corporation, said in Basle that the bank would find it hard this year to match the profit levels of 1975, which reached 200m francs (£36m), against 178m, in 1974.

He was moderately optimistic, however, as world economic activity was picking up, though the Swiss economy was still stagnant. Total loan demand at the bank had grown only 4.4 per cent, while foreign exchange and gold business dropped by 43.6m francs to 196m.

On "foreign" holdings in the bank an official said, the board aimed to reduce these to about 30 per cent of total bearer shares, which constitute half the capital. A "majority" of the bearer shares were already in Swiss hands.—AP-Dow Jones.

Ley's faltering after promising start

A good opening quarter, but an unpromising second three months for its chief subsidiaries, were reported to shareholders of Ley's Foundries & Engineering at the annual meeting.

Ley's Malleable Castings held its ground in the first quarter (October-December) but the volume of business will be lower in the second three months. A good opening came from Ewart Chainbelt which should continue, but here again incoming orders are well below production.

W. Shaw also faces competition. The first six months should be better, but the second half will not be so good.

Oakbridge 60pc up

Shareholders in Oakbridge, the Australian mining and manufacturing group, and formerly Slater Walker Australia, are to receive an increase in dividend from 3c to 4c for the six months to December 31. Net profits rose 60.4 per cent to \$1.86m (£1.16m). The policy of early retirement of overseas debts has continued. This reduced long-term liabilities at January 31, from \$10.9m at June 30, to \$2.7m at January 31.

UC Inv & Geduld Inv

The annual reports of UC Investments and Geduld Investments, respectively the mining and industrial investment holding companies in the Union Corporation Group, both show a decline in net assets. UC's level since 1973, while Geduld has dropped to £26.6m, against £28.7m in 1974.

Briefly

MID-SUSSEX WATER

Minimum tender price for company's 8 per cent redeemable preference stock 1981 is £8.50 per £100 stock. Yield together with tax credit is 12.49. Last day for receipt of tenders is March 3.

ELECTRONIC MACHINE

Electronic Machine has bought majority interest in Davin Optical, north London manufacturer of specialist lenses and lens systems. EMC will be investing approximately £50,000 to pay for acquisition and expansion.

SEAFORD ENGINEERING

Manchester Assurance has bought stake of 92,000 (4.2 per cent) preference shares of company, more than 10 per cent of that class of share.

WHEATWAY WATSON

In eight months, Wheatway Watson has twice called on its shareholders for cash. Tuesday's share issue of £402,000, comes after a three-day issue of 5p a share for £400,000 last June. Each issue will help pay for modernisation. For the year to April 2, the board forecasts pre-tax profits of £225,000 against £550,000 and final dividend of 0.6p gross, compared with 0.45p.

SHARE STAKE

Finance and Industrial Trust—Yorkshire Investments now holds 481,602 ordinary shares in company (18.7 per cent).

LONDON & GARTMORE

London & Gartmore Investment Trust revised its dividend for half-year to December 31 down from £236,000 to £266,000. No interim payment (against 0.215p gross). Profit of not less than 0.325p gross (all last time) is forecast.

MATHER & PLATT

Norman International of Sydney, Australia, has increased its interest in Mather and Platt by a further 100,000 shares, making a total of 2.78 million shares (19.9 per cent).

COLMORE INVESTMENTS

Pre-tax profit for nine months to December 31, about £14,000 (£58,000) before loan interest £48,000 (£38,000). No interim dividend, against 0.515p gross.

MOORSIDE TRUST

Gross revenue for period, April 5, 1975, to December 31, 1975, £379,000. For period January 23, 1975 to April 4, 1975, £148,000. Total payment for period January 23, 1975 to December 31, 1975, 5.39p gross (4.72p for period January 1, 1974, to January 22, 1975).

BANK OF NOVA SCOTIA

Pre-tax revenue for three months to January 31, \$5m54.4m. Dividend, 40 cents.

BETHLEHEM STEEL

Bethlehem Steel, Pa.—The public offering of \$200m of 8 1/8 per cent debentures, due March 1, 2001, of Bethlehem Steel Corp is being made by Kuhn Loeb & Co and Smith Barney Harris Upham & Co. The debentures are priced at 99 1/8 per cent, plus accrued interest to yield 8.45 per cent to maturity.

ANAX DEBENTURES

New York.—A syndicate headed by Lehman Brothers Inc is offering \$50m of Anax Inc debentures and two million shares of Anax convertible preferred stock. The debentures, due 2001, are being offered at 99 1/8 per cent, plus coupon to yield 8.70 per cent.—Reuters.

COMPANY Gold Fields on swings and roundabouts

Contradictions facing Consolidated Gold Fields are emphasised as the group's Amey Road-one Corporation reports a year five-fold pre-tax profit increase, and its Australian interests announce a \$99.1m lapse into a \$52.88m loss about £1.8m.

ARC's performance, while expected to be good, was much stiffer than hoped, while the figures from CGFA were worse than feared, notwithstanding all the known problems of the operations, particularly Mount all.

At ARC, pre-tax profits took a 64 per cent drop in trading six months to the end of December, and while a comparison with the first half in 74 is slightly misleading, the use of the word "marginally" pressed figures, the firm up trend in profits is clear.

deed, the first half profit was more than made in the full year to last June.

Turnover rose £57m to £72m, a 27 per cent increase owed to a rise in volume, rather than price increases.

Interest charges were substantially down at £1.1m, reducing both lower rates and rowings.

major contributors to the proved results were the aggregate and precast sections.

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business appointments

MENTS LTD New managing director

or L & O Freighters

Mr Stanley Sedgwick is to

manage the director of

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land Bank, has been elected

since Corporation following the

بنك الكويت الوطني ش.م.ك.
THE NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT S.A.K.

Established 1952

BALANCE SHEET AT 31st DECEMBER 1975

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
1974 Kuwaiti Dinars	1975 Kuwaiti Dinars	1974 Kuwaiti Dinars	1975 Kuwaiti Dinars
Capital Authorized, Issued and paid up 100,000 shares of KD 7.500 each fully paid	7,500,000	Cash and Current Accounts with Banks Money at Call and Short Notice	38,431,196 36,439,684
Statutory Reserve	3,004,300	Quoted Investments at Market Value Foreign Government Securities and Securities Guaranteed by Foreign Governments	7,254,049 6,419,034
General Reserve	14,995,700	Other Securities	13,673,083
Profit and Loss Account	570,622	Deposit Accounts with Banks, Industrial Bankers and Other Financial Institutions	101,952,805
Current, Deposit and Other Accounts (including Contingency Accounts) ... Proposed Dividend, payable 1st February 1976	18,000,000 26,820,622 399,865,968 1,815,000	Loan guaranteed by the Government of Kuwait	12,570,173
Confirmed Credits, Acceptances and Guarantees on behalf of Customers, as per contra	105,003,866	Advances to Customers, Bills Discounted and Other Accounts	158,904,273
		Unquoted Investments (at or under cost) Subsidiaries and Associated Companies	3,649,894 26,024,900
		Others	29,674,794
		Land and Buildings (at cost less amounts written off)	1
		Liability of Customers for Confirmed Credits, Acceptances and Guarantees as per contra	105,003,866
KD 448,184,221	KD 533,505,456	KD 448,184,221	KD 533,505,456

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1975

1974 Kuwaiti Dinars	1975 Kuwaiti Dinars
Profit after charging all expenses, making provisions for contingencies and writing down assets	2,750,210
Balance brought forward from previous year	334,853
	3,085,063
Transferred to Statutory Reserve	275,000
Transferred to General Reserve	725,000
Proposed dividend of 22% (KD 1.650 per share) payable 1st February 1976	1,650,000
	2,650,000
KD 435,063	KD 570,622

London Correspondents:
United Bank of Kuwait Limited
Standard Chartered Bank
Midland Bank Limited
Barclays Bank Limited
Lloyds Bank Limited
National Westminster Bank Limited
Bank of Tokyo Limited
Chase Manhattan Bank
Fuji Bank Limited

New York Correspondents:
Bank of America (International)
Bankers Trust Company
Chase Manhattan Bank
Chemical Bank
First National City Bank
Irving Trust Company
J. Henry Schroder Banking Corporation
Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company
Morgan Guaranty Trust Company

Correspondents in all principal countries.

A COMPLETE BANKING SERVICE FOR TRANSACTIONS WITH KUWAIT

